

UBUNTU

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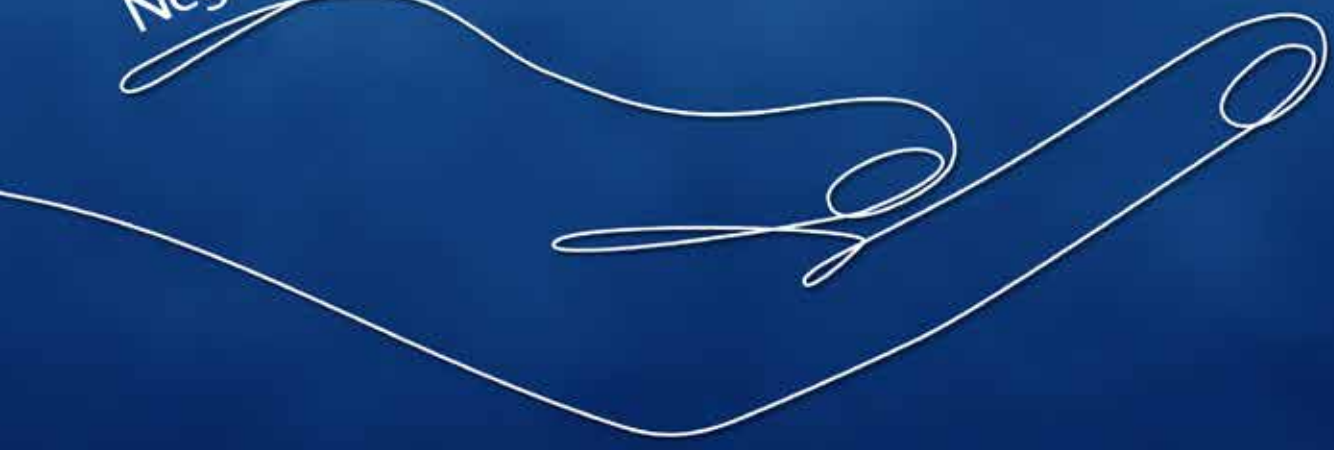
South Africa's Public Diplomacy in action 



Negotiation

Peace

Sovereignty







The Twelve Apostles Mountain Range serves as the backdrop to Table Mountain in Cape Town, boasting one of the most picturesque coastal areas globally. The range stretches approximately from Kloof Nek, situated between Table Mountain and Lion's Head, to Hout Bay, offering a view of the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the stunning ridges, ravines and gorges of the Twelve Apostles on the other.

credits

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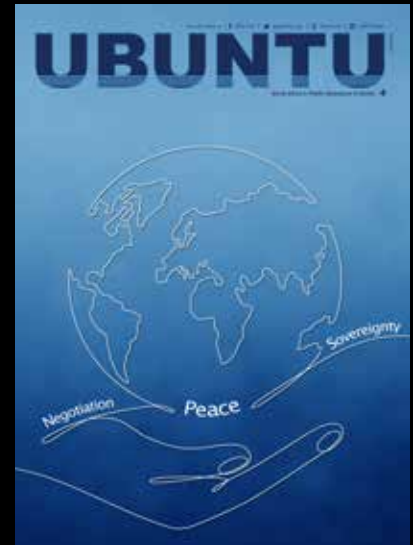
Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



UBUNTU

a Nguni word meaning humanity

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's quarterly magazine



ON THE COVER

"We are determined, in both word and action, to maintain our position on the peaceful resolution of conflict. Guided by the lessons of our history, we will continue to resist calls, from whatever quarter, to abandon our independent and non-aligned foreign policy."

President Cyril Ramaphosa

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**SOUTH AFRICA:
MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

2023 – 2025

*“Together, building back better
through human rights”*



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honour and
celebrate
excellence



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The past year proved to be tumultuous for international relations. We had thought COVID-19 had put us through the most difficult time, but the conflict in Europe has introduced more difficulties for all of us who work in international relations.

Despite the many complicated challenges, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) continued its focus on our core tasks. These are to strengthen bilateral relations, play an effective role in multilateral institutions, provide services to our citizens abroad and support our government in achieving the objectives of inclusive growth, peace and development in South Africa, Africa and the world. The past year has seen a significant expansion in the bilateral work of the Minister, the deputy ministers and officials, as well as a very active international diary for President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Economic diplomacy

Last year, we undertook to increasingly focus on economic diplomacy in the department and missions. Our missions have been playing a leading role in assisting our government in all spheres in their international cooperation efforts. A specific area of progress has been to provide economic diplomacy assistance to government and The Presidency for growing foreign direct investment into South Africa. We have made economic diplomacy a critical

aspect of our missions' work, and we are very pleased at the continuing interest many companies have shown in South Africa as an investment destination. I have held meetings with business people in various countries, and many want to know more about South Africa and plan to establish new interests in our country. The work all our teams have done has produced very positive results and will continue to do so.

The past financial year continued government's success in increasing foreign direct investment, particularly through the annual South Africa Investment Conference. Our missions are working closely in partnership with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and have succeeded in achieving the goal of R1,4 trillion in investment commitments. This work will continue.

A fractured geopolitical world

Our world has become increasingly fractured and complex. Relations around the globe are strained, worryingly divided and diverted from the Sustainable Development Goals we are committed to. The most powerful economies are in a fractious trade conflict that threatens all the smaller economies. There is armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and there are insufficient voices calling for peace or working to create a stable peaceful environment. The poor and marginalised are facing the greatest threat in that their plight is forgotten while the mighty fight. The result

has been increased economic risks for the most vulnerable, low growth levels in much of the globe and neglect of those in the greatest need. Food inflation and high energy prices have strained incomes and resulted in high debt costs and persistent uncertainty. This is not the world many hoped for when the Cold War ended. As DIRCO, we have urged a return to peace, multilateralism and partnerships for development.

Our department has maintained its core focus on our goals; we have strengthened partnerships and promoted peace and security in the region, the continent and globally.

Peace and security

Last year, we concluded our term as Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Peace, Defence and Security. South Africa led the efforts to activate and support the mission in Mozambique and engaged with Eswatini to encourage efforts to establish national unity in that country. President Ramaphosa also concluded the SADC facilitation process in Lesotho and tabled his final report to the SADC Summit last August. Lesotho held successful elections last year and is actively implementing the reform agenda adopted by the National Reforms Authority.

We remain concerned about the war between Russia and Ukraine and want to encourage all parties involved to find a route to peace. We are convinced that negotiations are imperative for ending this terrible strife and continue to urge all parties to pursue diplomacy. We will be serving in the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council for the next two years and hope that intensified efforts will be given to finding peace in Sudan, Mali, Libya, Chad and Burkina Faso.

South-South cooperation and BRICS

One of the ways in which a context of global collaboration could be advanced is through establishing influential formations that will work with the United Nations (UN) to advance an inclusive forward-looking international development agenda. It is possible for BRICS to play such a transformative role. South Africa is Chair of BRICS for 2023, and we hope the BRICS leaders can assume a stronger role in bringing peace to Ukraine and Russia. We welcome the efforts of President Xi Jinping and those promised by President Lula da Silva. BRICS has attracted great interest from

a number of countries, and our sherpas are engaged in conceptualising how BRICS could respond to such interest. It is vital to ensure that what is eventually agreed on strengthens multilateralism, the UN and our Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). We hope our leaders will provide definitive guidelines at the conclusion of the BRICS Summit. The growing interest in BRICS indicates that many countries are searching for a multipolar forum that is modern, inclusive and oriented toward the good of all.

Our BRICS theme is *BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism*. BRICS is our partnership of emerging economies and developing countries that wish to play a role in world affairs, ensuring benefit to the global South. We are encouraged by the growth and resilience of the New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS and welcome the new members. The bank has assisted members to secure funding to address infrastructure needs, support the unblocking of regional value chains and localisation of production capacity.

Our partnership with BRICS has resulted in tangible benefits for our country in a wide range of sectors. Total trade with BRICS countries increased from R487 billion in 2017 to R702 billion in 2021. We have received funding of over US\$5 billion from the NDB for key infrastructure projects in renewable energy, water and other sectors.

Our priorities for BRICS this year are to develop a partnership towards an equitable just transition; transform education and skills development for the future; unlock opportunities through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); strengthen post pandemic economic recovery; and strengthen multilateralism.

BRICS countries support a strong multilateral system and reform of the UN Security Council (SC). Our target this year is to ensure increased strengthening of BRICS, and the hosting of a successful summit in August.

A progressive agenda

We remain focussed on the vision of peace set out by former President Nelson Mandela throughout his lifetime. We have committed to playing a full role in resolving international challenges and helping countries achieve peace and security. Working through the African Renaissance Fund, we will support reconstruction efforts in Cabo Delgado in Mozambique. We will use our three years in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) to

promote peace and full enjoyment of human rights for all people. We will also continue work to realise the bold anti-racism initiatives of the Durban Plan of Action that was adopted at the Anti-Racism Conference over 20 years ago. We will continue to argue for reform of the UNSC and for a greater focus on the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Our focus on BRICS will be implemented alongside continued work to retain and strengthen links with Africa, Europe, the United States, East Asia and the Middle East. All these are important trading partners for South Africa and must not be neglected.

We are pleased that from this year the NAM will be chaired by Uganda. We will work closely with our sister country to strengthen NAM, and we congratulate Azerbaijan for the leadership provided through their Chairship.

We will continue our participation in the G20 and consistently profile the interests of South Africa and Africa. We are pleased that the G20 has agreed with us and the AU, that the AU must be a permanent presence at the group, and we look forward to working closely with the AU to profile our development agenda. We believe more attention should be given to addressing post-COVID liquidity challenges on the continent and call on the G20 to do more to assist.

It is worrying that the conflict in Ukraine has diminished world attention from challenges in Africa and left the marginalised even more vulnerable to the dangers of terrorism, food insecurity, climate change and instability. Developing countries need a G20 focussed on issues of development. The G20 should actively encourage wealthy G7 member states to honour their financial commitments to supporting developing countries in mitigation and adaptation. They should also play a leading role in entrenching peace and security globally.

Last year, our commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts was visibly illustrated in our country's support for peace in Ethiopia. South Africa was honoured to host the Pretoria Peace Talks. We thank the people of Ethiopia for trusting us, and we thank the facilitators and international partners for the wonderful work they did. President Olusegun Obasanjo displayed incredible leadership, ably supported by President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

South Africa will continue to support peace efforts and the entrenchment of human rights in the globe. We are grateful to have been elected to the HRC and will use our presence there to pursue a human rights agenda. That agenda will support our established and new

global solidarity efforts – we will continue our support for a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine. We know much has been done to make this improbable, but we must continue all efforts for peace and freedom for the people of Palestine and of Western Sahara, and our solidarity with the blockaded people of Cuba.

We must also improve our solidarity with South Sudan, Mali, Libya and Chad. We are still in the middle of the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace declared for 2019 to 2028, and as the inheritors of his legacy, we all have a duty to be activists for peace on our continent and worldwide.

Our focus on human rights must also be active in seeking full enjoyment of equality and justice for the women of Afghanistan. The South cannot be silent when girl children and women are denied rights that we regard as fundamental to our humanity.

I wish to thank the people of South Africa for their generous solidarity for the people of Türkiye and Syria when they were struck by tragedy. Colleagues from both countries have expressed their gratitude to our rescue workers, NGOs such as the Gift of the Givers Foundation, SAPS K9 rescue unit, Medi Response, Search and Rescue South Africa, businesspeople and many thousands of our people who held out a helping hand. We must do the same for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi as they have faced devastating floods.

It is in this spirit that we have developed a forward-looking agenda and programme for the new financial year.

We will focus on BRICS, and we will focus on peace and security, especially in our membership of the AU Peace and Security Council. We will continue robust bilateral links as shown in President Ramaphosa hosting a number of heads of state this year. We will also continue our strong advocacy for implementation of the AfCFTA as a critical lever for the economic transformation of Africa. We will work with SADC to implement our regional development agenda and continue our support for progress in achieving the goals of the AU Agenda 2063.

I am fully alert to the challenges facing government and confirm DIRCO's commitment to help grow our economy, create prosperity and support the achievement of a better Africa and world through robust international partnerships and global cooperation.



Dr GNM Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



Since the advent of democracy nearly 30 years ago, South Africa has pursued an independent foreign policy.

With the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, however, there has been extraordinary pressure on the country to abandon its non-aligned position and take sides in what is in effect a contest between Russia and the West. Other countries on the African continent and elsewhere have been put under similar pressure.

One of the most impressive features of the international anti-apartheid movement was that it drew support from countries and citizens from across continental and ideological divides. The struggle to end apartheid was taken up in capitals from Africa to Europe, from the Americas to Asia. Our leaders worked hard to gain the support of governments, lawmakers and citizens across the divisions of the Cold War.

That experience – of reaching out across political divides and building relations with very different countries – has helped to shape our foreign policy. This has been coupled with a firm belief in the value of an inclusive multilateral world order and the peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue.

This explains South Africa's membership of the Non-Aligned Movement, a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. South

Africa has also used its membership of other international fora such as the G20 and BRICS groups to advance the views and interests of countries in Africa and the rest of the global South.

Throughout, we have been firm on this point: South Africa has not been, and will not be, drawn into a contest between global powers.

That does not mean that we do not have a position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Consistent with our stance on conflicts in other parts of the world, South Africa's view is that the international community needs to work together to urgently achieve a cessation of hostilities and to prevent further loss of life and displacement of civilians in Ukraine. It needs to support meaningful dialogue towards lasting peace, which ensures the security and stability of all nations.

As a country, we are committed to the articles of the United Nations (UN) Charter, including the principle that all members will settle their international disputes by peaceful means. We support the principle that members should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of other states.

Our position seeks to contribute to the creation of conditions that make the achievement of a durable resolution of the conflict possible. The reality is that the Russia-Ukraine conflict – and the tensions that underlie it – will not be resolved through

military means. It needs to be resolved politically.

We do not accept that our non-aligned position favours Russia above other countries. Nor do we accept that it should imperil our relations with other countries.

Last year, President Cyril Ramaphosa travelled to Washington to meet President Joe Biden and to London to meet Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. In his talks with both leaders, President Ramaphosa restated our non-aligned position and explained that South Africa believed that this conflict should be resolved through dialogue. South Africa is chairing the BRICS grouping this year and has strong and enduring relations with all these countries.

In all our interactions with these countries, we restate our belief that the UN remains the only viable mechanism through which the global community can strive for peace and common development.

Yet, the conflict in Ukraine has highlighted the weaknesses in the structure and practices of the UN. The composition of the UN Security Council, in particular, does not reflect the realities of the current global landscape. It needs to be overhauled so that there is equitable representation and a more inclusive mechanism for resolving international disputes.

South Africa is a sovereign state, governed by a democratic Constitution and committed to the consistent application of international law. We will continue to fulfil our obligations in terms of the various international agreements and treaties to which we are signatories.

These are among the principles that inform our approach to allegations that arms were loaded onto a Russian vessel that docked in Simon's Town late last year. Since there is no concrete evidence to support these allegations, the President is establishing an independent inquiry headed by a retired judge to establish the facts.

South Africa's position on this issue was well explained by the President's envoy, Prof. Sydney Mufamadi, and his delegation who travelled to Washington DC for discussions with representatives of the United States Government.

We are determined, in both word and action, to maintain our position on the peaceful resolution of conflict. Guided by the lessons of our history, we will continue to resist calls, from whatever quarter, to abandon our independent and non-aligned foreign policy. 🇿🇦

@ClaysonMonyela



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Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism

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A pond at sunrise in the fog with the Hanglip or Hanging Lip Mountain Peak in the Entabeni Safari Game Reserve in the Limpopo province.



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South Africa remains an investment destination with significant untapped potential



As we work with dedication and focus to overcome our immediate challenges, let us not lose sight of the incredible promise of our country, South Africa.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

On 13 April 2023, South Africa hosted the Fifth South African Investor Conference (SAIC) in Johannesburg. Participants' presence at this event was a clear demonstration that

South Africa continues to be an attractive investment destination despite a strained domestic and global economic climate.

The SAIC has continued to evolve and grow over the past five years.

In 2018, we set a bold and ambitious target to raise R1.2 trillion in investment over

a five-year period. This year's conference was an opportunity to reflect on progress we have made to achieve that goal.

Given the state of the economy in 2018, and given that we were emerging from a decade of state capture, many thought it was an unattainable target.



The Fifth SAIC affirmed local and international investor confidence in the structural reforms we have been driving to improve the business environment.

We moved with speed, appointing the first of our special envoys to engage with domestic and foreign investors on investment opportunities in South Africa.

In the same year, the first-ever SAIC took place. Despite economic headwinds, low business confidence and dampened investor sentiment, the first conference generated investment pledges to the value of approximately R300 billion.

The value of investment pledges has continued to grow.

Since April 2018, we have had to contend with a devastating global pandemic, damaging social unrest, several natural disasters and a cost-of-living crisis worsened by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

In addition, we are now confronted with the consequences of years of under-investment, mismanagement and corruption in our electricity, rail and logistics sectors.

Given all that has taken place in the intervening years, it is understandable that investor confidence has been sorely tested.

Doubters have had reason to be sceptical.

We are on a long journey to rebuild our country and recover the ground we have lost. Our recovery is a mission that will take time to accomplish.

We are on the recovery path. We refuse to be daunted by the challenges we face; we are confident that we will recover.

We remain convinced that South Africa is an investment destination with significant untapped potential. We do believe that by leveraging our unique value proposition, we have the ability to attract higher levels of investment.

In the mid of all the challenges we face, our ambition has not been misplaced. We do believe that the target we set in 2018 was not misplaced either.

The previous four SAICs that have taken place have attracted R1.14 trillion in investment pledges.

While investment decisions often take several years to reach fruition, the investment commitments made to date have already resulted in substantial investment in

the productive economy. Almost 70% of the total number of projects announced since 2018 are either completed or on their way to completion.

By April 2023, R460 billion of capital had been invested in building new factories, purchasing equipment, constructing roads, sinking mine shafts and rolling out broadband infrastructure.

What really stands out is the impact of these investments on the lives of South Africans who are now able to earn a decent living and care for their families. As we create sustainable jobs, we are working to tackle poverty and inequality.

I have been encouraged by the investments that are happening in the economy and those that are being facilitated via InvestSA, our investment envoys, the diplomatic missions in various countries and our government departments, especially the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

Whether it is in business process outsourcing, tech start-ups, the automotive sector, green ammonia, green hydrogen or in the construction of mega data centres, local and international companies are expanding their footprint in South Africa.

It has been a core conviction of this administration that to create jobs, we must drive growth, and to achieve growth, we must implement fundamental economic reforms.

The Fifth SAIC affirmed local and international investor confidence in the structural reforms we have been driving to improve the business environment.

The energy sector remains our foremost priority.

The lack of reliability in electricity supply weakens business and consumer confidence, taints international perceptions about our country and affects investment sentiment and decisions. With a view to addressing the energy challenges, we announced an

Energy Action Plan in July 2022. The plan presents a clear path to reduce the severity and frequency of loadshedding in the short term and achieve energy security in the long term.

The Minister in The Presidency for Electricity, with the support of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Public Enterprises and the National Energy Crisis Committee, is overseeing the implementation of this plan.

Our immediate focus is on improving the performance of our existing coal-fired power stations as they continue to provide the baseload of our energy.

Demand-side management initiatives will receive elevated attention, including through consumer behaviour, rooftop solar and facilitating embedded generation.

We have been implementing wide-ranging reforms in the electricity sector to enable private investment in electricity generation and accelerate the procurement of new generation capacity from solar, wind, gas and battery storage.

One of these reforms regarding the removal of the licensing threshold for embedded generation, has facilitated considerable private investment in the electricity sector.

This reform, together with measures to streamline regulatory processes, has enabled a surge of new projects, with the pipeline of committed projects now representing over 10 000 MW of new capacity.

Several municipalities are making use of regulatory changes to procure power independently.

We have introduced tax incentives for households and businesses to invest in rooftop solar. We have called for financial institutions to support this effort through affordable funding for households and small and medium enterprises. Government will assist poor households through a number of programmes.



Almost 70% of the total number of projects announced since 2018 are either completed or on their way to completion. By April 2023, R460 billion of capital had been invested in building new factories, purchasing equipment, constructing roads, sinking mine shafts and rolling out broadband infrastructure.

The debt transfer package for Eskom, together with the progress made in unbundling the utility, will enable the necessary investment in the transmission network and in the maintenance of Eskom's generation fleet.

We expect the National Transmission Company to be fully operational shortly.

Through our renewable energy programme, we have signed agreements for approximately 2 800 MW from bid windows 5 and 6, with several large projects already in construction and others on track to reach financial close.

We recently released a request for proposals for over 500 MW of battery storage, and will soon open further bid windows for wind, solar, battery storage and gas power.

As we work to close the electricity supply shortfall and end loadshedding in the short term, we are laying the foundation for a fundamental reform of the energy sector in the longer term.

Cabinet has approved the Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill, which will soon be tabled in Parliament, to establish a competitive market for electricity generation.

Though loadshedding will remain a challenge in the immediate future, its severity will begin to ease as some of the more targeted initiatives recently announced begin to take effect.

What we are witnessing in the energy sector is an undeniable surge of investment that will not only address the electricity supply shortfall in years to come, but will propel growth and create jobs.

Even as we work to improve the performance of our existing coal-fired power stations to address loadshedding, we remain committed to a just energy transition and our target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

We will implement the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan, which outlines our investment needs to support a just and inclusive transition towards cleaner forms of energy.

We will soon be completing the review of the Integrated Resource Plan to lay the foundation for a fundamentally transformed

energy landscape that transitions us along a low-carbon and climate-resilient developmental path.

We will undertake this just transition at a pace our country can afford and in a manner that advances our developmental objectives and ensures energy security.

In the long run, investment in green energy will be a huge boost to economic growth.

There are indeed opportunities in this crisis, including for the local manufacture of solar panels, batteries and inverters and the use of our unique natural endowment in resources like platinum and vanadium.

This will open up new opportunities for employment and the skilling and upskilling of workers, especially young people.

We are equally focussed on addressing the crisis in the logistics sector.

Transnet's railway and port constraints are significantly affecting the mining, agriculture, forestry, automotive and manufacturing sectors.

We are prioritising port and rail efficiencies as part of the structural reform process.

Our new National Rail Policy provides for third-party access to the freight rail network, which will allow private rail operators into the network to increase investment and improve efficiency.

To facilitate third-party access, Transnet is establishing a separate Infrastructure Manager for the rail network.

In the interim, Transnet is implementing a range of measures to arrest the decline in performance of the freight rail system, including to increase the availability of locomotives for key corridors.

Transnet is also in the process of establishing private-sector partnerships at the Durban and Ngqura container terminals, which we expect to be concluded in the coming weeks.

Significantly, we have agreed with key stakeholders to establish a National Logistics Crisis Committee to drive the implementation of a comprehensive roadmap for the freight logistics sector.

Just as the private-sector Resource Mobilisation Fund is providing support for the Energy Action Plan, we are greatly

encouraged by indications from business that they are prepared to support government in our efforts to fix the logistics system.

We are confident that working together with the private sector and organised labour, Transnet and government will be able to overcome these constraints to improve efficiencies.

Immigration reform has long been cited by many businesses as an area of concern. During the SAIC, I announced a significant overhaul of the work visa system that will provide a further boost to investment.

This includes decentralising the adjudication of visa applications to foreign missions and streamlining application requirements to reduce the timeframes for obtaining a work visa.

We will introduce a Trusted Employer Scheme for qualifying companies and establish a points-based system to provide more flexible pathways for skilled applicants, in line with global best practice.

We will introduce new visa categories for remote workers and start-ups to attract dynamic entrepreneurs and promote spending in our economy.

In addition, we will be expanding the e-Visa system to include an additional 20 countries over and above the 14 that are currently eligible, and will extend the e-Visa system to cover new visa categories such as study, business and intra-company transfer visas.

These reforms will enable us to attract skills and investment and create jobs while protecting and promoting the employment of South Africans.

As we reform our visa regime, we are investing in the skills development system to ensure that we produce the skills that our economy needs.


The National Skills Fund will soon launch a new model for demand-led skills development, which will provide R800 million to fund training for unemployed young people in digital skills.

The key innovation of this model is that payment will be linked to placement of young people in employment, as opposed to training alone, to incentivise improved outcomes.

The pay-for-performance fund is designed to crowd in funding from multiple sources, and I would like to call on the support of the private sector in taking this model to scale.

Crime and corruption continue to hamper South Africa's development.

To address this grave challenge, specialised multidisciplinary task teams have been set up by the police to tackle crimes of economic sabotage such as violence and extortion at construction sites, illegal mining,



infrastructure vandalism and cable theft. A number of arrests have already been made, followed by prosecutions and convictions. This steady progress is important as we strive to break up organised crime syndicates. Our hard work to rebuild state institutions is bearing fruit.

The South African Police Service, the Special Investigating Unit and the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) Investigating Directorate are making notable progress in dealing with cases of serious corruption. This work has resulted in arrests, asset forfeitures, successful convictions and the recovery of misappropriated funds.

Supported by data provided by the South African Revenue Service and the Financial Intelligence Centre, a multidisciplinary Fusion Centre is helping the NPA to successfully prosecute corruption-related offences and unravel complex financial crimes.

Since its inception, the work of the Fusion Centre has led to the preservation and recovery of approximately R1.75 billion in criminal assets.

These developments highlight the importance of South Africa's efforts to be removed from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "grey list" as soon as possible. South Africa's inclusion on the list of "jurisdictions under increased monitoring" is intended to raise standards of compliance.

Both our banking sector and our anti money-laundering legislation already meet

FATF requirements. We are working with the FATF to effectively address all outstanding deficiencies and strengthen the effectiveness of our anti money-laundering regime.

A day before the Fifth SAIC, I met with business leaders from some of South Africa's leading companies to discuss the challenges that are holding up growth in our economy.

We agreed to undertake practical joint action in three immediate priority areas: energy, logistics, and crime and corruption.

In doing so, we will be building on the collaborative model that we used so successfully in managing our response to COVID-19 and in our vaccine roll-out.

We are confident that if we can address these three issues, we will be able to turn our economy around and unleash its full potential.

The Fifth SAIC marked the end of the first phase of our investment mobilisation drive.

As South Africans, we have always believed in our country and its great promise.

We know from our engagements with investors that they see this potential too; a potential that is evident in the investment that we continue to attract.

South Africa's first Country Investment Strategy is being finalised.

It will outline priority areas and sectors to advance our country's economic interest and will be driven at the highest level with oversight provided by The Presidency. Investment in our economy is not just about

the amounts we have seen on the SAIC stage over the years. When we expand the lens and take in the aggregate picture, we see some encouraging trends too.

Following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, total fixed investment in nominal terms increased from R756 billion in 2020 to R811 billion in 2021 and to R933 billion in 2022.

From historical data, we know that total investment in our economy over a five-year period comes in at roughly R4 trillion.

Building on this baseline, we will work towards a new target to mobilise approximately R2 trillion in new investments over another five-year period, between now and 2028.

The investments emanating from the preceding SAICs stimulated industrial, technological and institutional modernisation. These investments have supported the expansion of human capital and knowledge transfer and created more jobs and learning opportunities.

With the achievement of our R1.2-trillion target at the Fifth SAIC, we now cast our collective eyes to the horizon.

As we work with dedication and focus to overcome our immediate challenges, let us not lose sight of the incredible promise of our country, South Africa. 🇿🇦



During his closing remarks at the Fifth South Africa Investment Conference at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, on 13 April 2023, President Cyril Ramaphosa described the event as a watershed conference.

“We have now reached R1,51 trillion in pledges, overshooting our initial R1,2-trillion target by 26%.

“We have honoured the undertaking we gave the South African people in 2018 that we would attract new investment to our shores, support the growth of local businesses and create more jobs.

“Today’s pledges cover 21 district municipalities across the country”.

President Ramaphosa said that infrastructure development was one of the key areas of focus to drive economic growth and was the flywheel that drove economic growth.

“Over the four-year period of our investment drive, we have realised approximately R263 billion in investment for infrastructure development.

“Not counted in this figure is the hundreds of billions of rands being spent on local and other public infrastructure by the three spheres of government.

“Through InfrastructureSA, we are hard at work driving the implementation of other key strategic infrastructure projects in water and sanitation.

“This includes bulk water projects such as Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, the Mzimvubu Water Project, the uMkhomazi Water Project, the Mokolo Crocodile River Water Augmentation Project, and others.

“A number of other strategic infrastructure projects are either in preparation or under construction in energy, transport, digital infrastructure, agriculture and human settlements.

“Today, there have been pledges from several companies and entities to invest in property development and logistics. This includes in luxury resorts and mixed-use developments, but also in social infrastructure projects like student accommodation.

“The South African National Roads Agency is investing R19,7 billion in the construction of various roads, bridges and other critical transport infrastructure.

“Today, we have seen investment pledges across a range of sectors. They include:

- the R1-billion investment by Turkey’s Menar Group in thermal coal-mining in Mpumalanga
- Seriti Group’s R4,5-billion investment in a wind energy project in Mpumalanga
- United States-based Moove’s R284-million investment in e-logistics
- Hive Hydrogen’s massive R105-billion investment in a green hydrogen production facility in Coega in the Eastern Cape.

“Hive’s investment in the Eastern Cape will see not only the construction of a green ammonia production plant, but the company also has plans to construct a seawater desalination plant capable of meeting approximately 50% of the water needs of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro.

“Bringing development and creating jobs are the true measurement of the success of these five conferences.

“We need to see the achievement of our initial five-year target as an opportunity to deepen our collaboration to achieve even more ambitious targets in future.

“The success of this first phase must be a springboard towards a recovered, reconstructed, inclusive new economy.

“The past five years have shown what we are capable of as a nation. They have shown our resilience and determination; our ability to make progress under difficult circumstances.

“As we close this Fifth South Africa Investment Conference, we look to the next five years with greater confidence and ambition.

“I now officially announce the countdown to mobilise R2 trillion over the next five years or 1 825 days. Let the hard work begin!”



THE AFRICA WE WANT

Our Aspirations for the Africa We Want

- A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
- An integrated continent, politically united, and based on the ideals of Pan Africanism
- An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
 - A peaceful and secure Africa
- An Africa with a strong cultural identity, Common Heritage, values and ethics
- An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, particularly its women and youth, and with well cared for children
 - Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner

Agenda 2063 is gaining momentum. It is time for action.

Be part of the transformation!



Ubuntu Awards honour and celebrate excellence

“Let us continue in the noble spirit of Ubuntu and show the world that our humanity is caught up in the humanity of others and binds us in each of us as the Arch famously said.”

South Africa recently honoured the contribution made by those who have excelled in promoting the interests of the country on an international stage.

“DIRCO [Department of International Relations and Cooperation] is honoured to shine a light on South Africans who have distinguished themselves in promoting our national interests, our talents and values around the world as ambassadors of our country,” said the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, at the Ubuntu Awards ceremony, held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre

on Saturday evening, 11 February 2023. Minister Pandor said the awards celebrated excellence and were the department’s way of honouring excellence.

“We are so excited to have this thrilling privilege of once again revealing the quality within South Africa to the world. Many are ordinary South Africans, who are honoured here for doing extraordinary things,” Minister Pandor said.

The Minister said the nominees and award recipients had each championed the essence of the meaning of Ubuntu, an ancient African philosophy that speaks to having compassion for others and lending energy to uplifting communities.

“The essence of Ubuntu is a stress on the oneness we share. It reflects a humanist African philosophy that has been decimated and weakened largely by colonialism and sociology economic deprivation. It suggests community as a building block of society.

“Essentially, it asserts that we are all bound together in ways that may be invisible to the eye. We achieve ourselves by sharing ourselves with others and caring for those around us,” Minister Pandor said.

She urged for cooperation in the many global challenges confronting the different countries of the world.

“These challenges are so immense that they suggest that as leaders and



communities, we must do more to actively live and breathe Ubuntu, [and take] action that is framed by justice for all people and by the practice of fairness and equality, regardless of race, gender or social status.

“As a global community, we must be [enjoined to address] climate change, migration, disease, human trafficking terrorism and hunger. Our help must uplift communities and not increase their vulnerability,” the Minister said.

“Ubuntu is the common thread in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals because without that level of collaboration, we cannot achieve the meaningful change anticipated in the SDGs.

“The rescue efforts in Türkiye and Syria indicate commitment to this joint vision. We commend all those South Africans and global citizens who are showing the spirit of Ubuntu as they offer humanitarian support. We also laud all who are contributing in many different forms of support.

“For us working in the domain of international cooperation and diplomacy, I am pleased to share with South Africans that working with the countries gathered in this room, we are striving to partner in addressing the difficult challenges facing South Africa.

“We need to work together even more to ensure a robust, effective, fair and rules-based, multilateral approach to global governance, trade, conflict resolution and peacekeeping. This is an agenda South Africa will continue to pursue in all international fora in which we participate, from the UN to G20, BRICS and others.”

“We need to work together even more to ensure a robust, effective, fair and rules-based, multilateral approach to global governance, trade, conflict resolution and peacekeeping. This is an agenda South Africa will continue to pursue in all international fora in which we participate, from the UN to G20, BRICS and others. As a region, SADC has been supported by partners in assisting Mozambique to repel terrorism. I hope that we will see decisive progress in Mozambique and the DRC this year, working together in the spirit of Ubuntu.

“South Africa is delighted to be chairing BRICS this year. Our chosen theme is: *BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable*

Development and Inclusive Multilateralism. Our theme and priorities reflect our foreign policy focus of advancing in partnership. We cannot neglect the critical task of developing with our continent, Africa and with the global South. One of the issues which will be discussed in BRICS is how to restructure the global, political, economic and financial architecture so that it becomes more balanced, representative, inclusive and equitable. I am certain we will also focus on accelerating Agenda 2063 and devising practical support for implementation of the AfCFTA.

“Allow me to conclude by sincerely congratulating all our nominees and award winners tonight not only for being our global ambassadors through flying our flag high, but also for contributing in your specific fields for the benefit of others and making the world a better place.

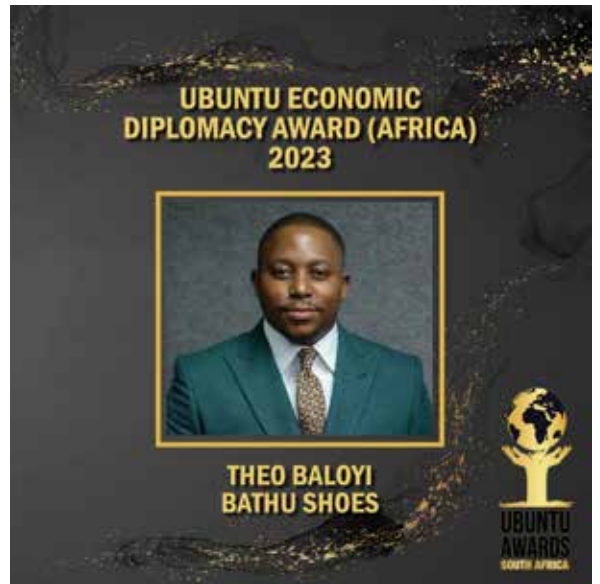
“The awards show any person can be a good ambassador for South Africa if they so wish. The very fact that you were nominated is a mark of the esteem with which you are held by your peers and that your country has chosen to recognise and honour you. You have all done our country proud.

“Let us continue in the noble spirit of Ubuntu and show the world that our humanity is caught up in the humanity of others and binds us in each of us as the Arch famously said.”



South Africa is delighted to be chairing BRICS this year. Our chosen theme is: *BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism.*





2023 Ubuntu Award winners

Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Africa): Theo Baloyi

Theo Baloyi is a South African entrepreneur and the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Bathu Shoes. He launched his eponymous shoe brand in 2015, having previously served as a Senior Associate at PwC in Dubai. He was featured in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list in 2019. In 2021, he won GQ's Business Leader of the Year. The company owns and operates over 30 stores across South Africa and the Southern African Development Community region. He was appointed board member of the South African Council of Shopping Centres in July 2022.

Ubuntu Economic Diplomacy Award (Global): Sasol

Sasol is a global chemical and energy company. It harnesses knowledge and expertise to integrate sophisticated technologies and processes into world-scale operating facilities. It safely and sustainably sources, produces and markets a range of high-quality products in 22 countries, creating value for stakeholders. Sasol's purpose of "innovating for a better world" compels the company to deliver on the triple bottom line outcomes of People, Planet and Profit responsibly and always with the intent to be a force for good.

Sasol is a public company listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in South Africa and the New York Stock Exchange in the United States. The company strives to deliver sustainable and superior value to all its stakeholders.

Ubuntu Social Responsibility Award: Mthetho Christopher Tshemese

Mthetho Tshemese is a qualified clinical psychologist from Mdantsane Township, Eastern Cape. Known as "The Village Shrink", he has been

a sought-after social commentator since 2002 and a frequent expert panellist on television shows, trying to make mental health services accessible to marginalised communities.

In July 2018, Tshemese resigned from his job and started visiting various townships and villages in South Africa, other parts of the African continent as well places like Kingston in Jamaica, focussing his efforts on working mainly with boys and men in disadvantaged communities, advocating for the promotion of mental health, violence prevention and positive masculinities.

Ubuntu Youth Diplomacy Award: Nsovo Mayimele

Nsovo Mayimele is a pharmacist and lecturer at the Tshwane University of Technology. Mayimele has served South Africa and the global community through her skills in healthcare, development and policy. She is an award-winning contributor, scientist and advocate for access to healthcare and women's health.

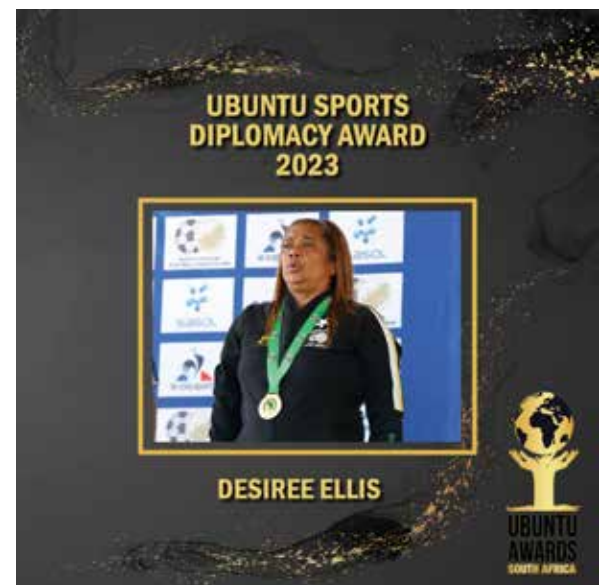
Her voice and service have been observed on global platforms such as the World Health Organisation. She has recently been working with the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD as a technical expert to coordinate the local manufacturing of medicines within the African continent to address medicine access inequalities that Africa experienced during the pandemic.



Ubuntu Sports Diplomacy Award: Desiree Ellis

Soccer manager and former player Desiree Ellis currently coaches the South Africa women's national team. She made history by becoming the first coach to lead South Africa to Women's Africa Cup of Nations success. She took six years to build a formidable team that beat Nigeria, which had won the competition nine times. In July 2022, Banyana Banyana won the Women's Africa Cup of Nations for the first time ever. They beat hosts Morocco 2-1 in front of a packed Rabat stadium in the historical final.

She was awarded Confederation of African Football Women's Coach of the Year in 2018, 2019 and 2022.



Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Youth): Makhadzi

Makhadzi is an award-winning South African singer, songwriter and dancer with numerous hit singles and collaborations with top artists. She is known to music lovers for her hit songs *Tshanda Vhuya* and *Matorokisi*. She has become a household name on the South African and international music scene.

Makhadzi has performed in countries such as Canada, France, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, to name but a few.

Ubuntu Arts and Cultural Diplomacy Award (Veteran): Abigail Kubeka

Mama Abigail Kubeka's husky musical voice and remarkable expertise make her one of the finest in the entertainment world. A professional actress, film, television and cabaret star, she holds her audience spellbound and sparkles through every performance. Kubeka was discovered at the age of 16 by Miriam Makeba, when Makeba invited her to join a top female singing group of the sixties, The Skylarks. Kubeka understudied her in the acclaimed musical, *King Kong*, and she toured Europe for several months.

Her solo career has landed her many leading roles in musicals, TV dramas, soaps and films. She has performed in Europe, Asia and Africa. Kubeka's first single was released in Nigeria and Europe in 1981. In 1992, she performed at the first Miss World Pageant at Sun City and in 1995, for Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to South Africa. Kubeka performed in a musical revue in France to critical acclaim and at the opening ceremony of the All Africa Games in 1999. She was the recipient of the Woman of Our Time Award in 1986. She was the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the eighth annual



South African Film and Television Awards in 2014. In 2006, she was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Silver for her achievement in and contribution to the art of music.

OR Tambo Lifetime Achievement Award: Ambassador Welile Nhlapo

During the difficult period of struggle against apartheid in South Africa, Ambassador Welile Nhlapo made a significant contribution to the liberation movement. He began his activities as a student in the Black Consciousness Movement and together with the late Steve Biko and Tebogo Mafole, co-authored the publication, *Black Review*, in 1972 that reviewed the activities of black organisations at the time. In 1973, a banning order was issued against him and he went into exile in Botswana in 1974. He later became the African National Congress Chief Representative in Botswana. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in 1994 and was part of the South African Government delegation to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1994 when South Africa was re-admitted to the world body. In 1995, he was appointed South African Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the Organisation of African Unity and the UN Economic Commission for Africa. In 1997, he was appointed Special Envoy to Burundi. He also served as non-resident Ambassador to Djibouti, Eritrea and Sudan. In 1998, he was appointed Deputy Director-General responsible for Africa in the DFA. During this period, he participated in South Africa's conflict resolution efforts in Lesotho, Democratic Republic of Congo, Comoros, Zimbabwe and the Great Lakes region.

In 2001, he was appointed Head of the Presidential Support Unit, which advised The Presidency on conflict situations in Africa and the Middle East. Contributing to the peace process in Burundi, as South Africa's Special Envoy, Ambassador Nhlapo formed part of the South African negotiating team assisting to find a solution to the conflict in that country. He was appointed Deputy Head of Mission responsible for political affairs in the African Union Mission in Burundi. He later became the Head of the Political Section of the UN Mission in Burundi. Shortly before assuming the post as South African Ambassador to the United States on 14 August 2007, Ambassador Nhlapo was Director in the Department of Political Affairs (Africa Division 1) at the UN Headquarters in New York. Ambassador Nhlapo took over the South African Chairship of the Kimberley Process on 1 January 2013. At the time, he was also the Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region and National Security Adviser to President Jacob Zuma. He is currently serving as Senior Political Adviser to ACCORD. 🇺🇸



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Universally known as the king of the jungle, the Lion is both graceful and majestic and is the second animal to be revealed in the South African Mint's second series of the award winning Big 5 coin collection, following the mighty Elephant.

Boasting a new design, the obverses of the Big 5 Series II collection take on a slight variation to the well-known and globally loved animal designs of Series I, while the reverse split portrait design remains. This unique construct reveals a complete portrait of a lion only when placed side by side with another coin. Thus an entire pride can be built by placing multiple coins next to each other. Collect your piece of the pride of Africa, in sterling-silver, 24ct gold, platinum and special sets.

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Honouring exceptional African women

Maxeke was an iconic leader – a woman of great courage and fortitude, and a true daughter of the soil. By memorialising her life, our goal is to inspire generations of women who will embody her values in a meaningful way.

By Dr GNM Pandor

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

On 25 March 2023, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) hosted the Charlotte Maxeke African Women Leadership Awards at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg.

This very important inaugural occasion recognised and honoured exceptional African women leaders whose achievements, mentorship, influence, leadership and contributions have advanced Africa's development in various sectors of society. The awards also recognised exceptional contributions to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Many of the heroes of our liberation movement are gallant women whose stories are often not told or acknowledged for their contribution. Many of the women present on the evening knew the story that when we gathered in meetings internationally or on the continent, they had this favourite expression of when "the founding fathers established", as though women were not alive at that time. We often don't mention women such as Gertrude Shope, Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu, Lilian Ngoyi and Ruth Mompati, although these are just some of the women upon whose shoulders we stand.

Mme Charlotte Mannya Maxeke, whose legacy we have chosen to honour each year through these awards, was born 152 years ago, and is often considered the mother of black freedom and a pioneer of women's education and emancipation. Maxeke was an iconic leader – a woman of great courage and fortitude and a true daughter of the soil. By memorialising her life, our goal is to inspire generations of women who will embody her values in a meaningful way.

There are also some great African women leaders who lived around the same time as her, who are often only mentioned in passing in history textbooks. European documents

sometimes mention them and when we recite oral history, we may refer to them. There might be artworks from time to time in which we see their images but generally, we don't mark them sufficiently.

The turbulent years following West and Central Africa's initial contact with Europe were marked by the emergence of women revered for their formidable political skills and social vision – women such as Ana Nzinga, queen of Ndongo; Dona Beatriz, Kongo prophet; and Idia, queen mother of Benin.

Perhaps more well-known was the warrior queen Yaa Asantewaa – queen of the prosperous Ashanti Empire, in now modern-day Ghana. As queen, she was the official protector of the empire's most sacred object, the Golden Stool. Made of solid gold and believed to house the soul of the nation, the stool represented the royal and divine throne of the empire. When British troops invaded in 1886 and demanded possession of the sacred object, Asantewaa refused. Instead, she led an army against them. "I shall call upon my fellow women. We will fight the white men. We will fight until the last of us falls in the battlefields," Yaa Asantewaa said.

For months, starting in 1900, Asantewaa's troops laid siege to the British occupying forces, who almost collapsed at that attack. Only after the British brought in several thousand additional troops and pounds of artillery, were they able to defeat Asantewaa's army. Asantewaa fought alongside her people until the very end and was captured and exiled to the Seychelles until her death in 1921. Her bravery and resistance in spite of the impossible odds have made her one of

history's most famous warrior queens to this day. And yet, where do you see her name on our streets or on our buildings?

Last year, the American feature film *The Woman King* premiered, which was produced right here in South Africa. The film is about the Agojie all-female warrior unit that protected the West African kingdom Dahomey during the 17th to 19th centuries. Located in present-day Benin, the kingdom of Dahomey was facing French troops in the 1890s. As the French army attempted to penetrate the territory of King Behanzin, with the aim of overthrowing him, they came up against an unusual defence: the Amazons of Dahomey. On their return from war, French male legionnaires described the "courage and audacity" of the fearless Agojie women warriors.

Our very own Mme Maxeke did not earn her fame on the battlefield, but through her pen and political activism. She was a visionary, intellectual, an internationalist, a teacher and a fearless servant of her people. Maxeke, the internationalist, travelled to at least two continents at the turn of the 19th century when travelling abroad was both slow and difficult. This gave her an upper hand and unparalleled exposure to other cultures and a broader view of the world beyond the limitations of South Africa.

In the context of the conduct of international relations today, she is for us an early proponent of what we call people-to-people diplomacy. Through the African Jubilee Choir tour, she went on to the United States (US); she exchanged ideas with her contemporaries, shared information, used art to bring South Africa to the world and

Our very own Mme Maxeke did not earn her fame on the battlefield, but through her pen and political activism. She was a visionary, intellectual, an internationalist, a teacher and a fearless servant of her people.



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used other aspects of culture to foster mutual understanding. Maxeke also worked with women fighting for the vote, the so-called suffragists, in Europe and the US during that time of travel.

In 1894, she stayed in the US and pursued her studies at the Wilberforce University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her studies made it possible for her to be groomed by a very famous American sociologist, civil rights activist and a Pan-Africanist of note, WEB Du Bois, who contributed immensely in shaping her outlook of the world. In 1901, she graduated with a BSc degree, becoming the first woman in southern Africa to graduate from a university.

Maxeke, upon having graduated, returned to South Africa to educate her people and became somewhat of a weapon for empowerment. Learning from her own experience abroad, she dedicated her life to the upliftment of others as well as the struggle for liberation of black South Africans. She was a fierce opponent of the *dompas* for black women and men and helped to organise the anti-pass movement in Bloemfontein. In 1913, Maxeke led the first women's march in Bloemfontein against the

extension of the odious passbook and led a delegation to Prime Minister Louis Botha to discuss the issue of passes for women.

What was intriguing about her, at that time, was that she was not afraid to enter traditional male spaces and challenge the status quo. She was the only woman in the room at the founding meeting of the South African Native National Congress (now the African National Congress) at the Methodist Church in Waaihoek in Bloemfontein on 8 January 1912. She sat there quietly while the men discussed whether she could remain in the meeting, despite being more intellectually advanced than most men in that room.

In 1918, she co-founded the Bantu Women's League and became its first President, later creating much noise of public opinion against the disgusting practice of medical inspection of black women before entering domestic service. She was also involved in protests on the Witwatersrand about low wages for women and participated in the formation of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union in 1920.

Maxeke saw education for Africans as a vehicle to liberation. She was asked by the then Ministry of Education, the

Colonial Ministry of South Africa, to testify before several government commissions in Johannesburg on matters concerning African education. So, even those who were antagonistic towards her, recognised her qualities and sought her intellectual contribution. She taught at a primary and secondary school she co-founded, called Wilberforce Institute in Evaton, in the Vaal, which still exists today. Maxeke is the embodiment of what an empowered woman can achieve for her people, and an excellent example of what education can do for a girl child in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Maxeke was a social worker and a welfare officer and served her people without funds, and often for no pay. Her opinions and recommendations were often sought by the Government and, in many cases, she fought for young black offenders and succeeded in getting them suspended sentences and access to schooling. She eventually set up an employment agency for Africans in Johannesburg and worked with young people who were in conflict with the law to obtain education and skills.

While being the first black woman in the many spaces she operated in, she understood that for meaningful representation of women, she needed to rally other women to amplify their voices in the struggle for gender equality. We salute the ethos that Charlotte Maxeke stood for of



"This work is not for yourself, kill that spirit of self, and do not live above your people but live with them. If you rise, bring someone with you."

human solidarity, compassion and sacrifice for the common good, as well as a people-centred approach to development and self-reliance.

To honour the legacy of this trailblazer, DIRCO has developed a bold, transformative and concrete programme that will anchor South Africa's contribution to the United Nations (UN) Women Global Accelerated Plan for Gender Equality. The programme is called the Charlotte Maxeke African Women's Economic Justice and Rights Initiative, which was launched in 2021. Our initiative is being implemented through six flagship programmes, aimed at making a real impact on gender equality and women's empowerment.

We recognise that while more efforts have gone towards safeguarding the civil and political rights of women, the economic rights of women and girls have largely been neglected. Through the implementation

of this initiative, South Africa seeks to mobilise the global community to support women's leadership across all the action coalitions of the UN Generation Equality Forum. The focus is on economic justice and rights through education, training and mentorship for women and youth, as well as creating opportunities in economic participation, networking, diplomacy and trade.

One programme of the DIRCO initiative is the training of women leaders from various sectors of society on conflict resolution, mediation and negotiation. The graduates of this programme then join the Gertrude Shope Women Mediators Network. Moving from the premise that peace is a precursor to development, we believe it is pivotal that DIRCO complements its implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda with a programme aimed at the economic empowerment of women.

We can all learn important lessons from the life of Charlotte Maxeke, such as her wise words when she said to her compatriots; women who were working close with her:

This work is not for yourself, kill that spirit of self, and do not live above your people but live with them. If you rise, bring someone with you.

Let us also recall the words of another great woman who strived after her, Mme Albertina Sisulu, one of the most wonderful, humble, dignified leaders we have ever had in our country, who said:

We are each required to walk our own road and then stop, assess what we have learnt and share it with others. It is only in this way that the next generation can learn from those who have walked before them. We can do no more than tell our story. Then it is up to them to make of it what they will.

I encourage each of our Charlotte Maxeke award recipients to share their story with the next generation, so that they can be inspired by your accomplishments and strive to be women of excellence, which is what we believe you are and which is the reason why we honour you in the name of Charlotte Maxeke. 🇿🇦



Charlotte Maxeke African Women Leadership Awards winners:

Women in Peace and Security: Farida Charity

Farida Charity, 36 years old, is a community leader and peace advocate supporting peace initiatives in the conflict-affected district of Yumbe, Northern Uganda. Charity started her activism at a very young age, when she participated in the peace negotiations with the Uganda National Rescue Front, which led to a formal ceasefire agreement between the rebels and government in 2002. Today, Charity is the Speaker of the Yumbe District Council. For five years, she has been using her leadership position to advocate for policies that promote the peaceful co-existence between the refugees and host communities in the district and to advocate for health services for women and girls. As the Chairperson of the council's Women Caucus, Charity mobilised fellow women leaders to start mentoring programmes targeted at school-age girls from host and refugee communities, focussed on preventing sexual gender-based violence, managing conflict and keeping girls in school.

Women Information and Communications Technology: Queen Ndlovu

Queen Ndlovu is the CEO and co-founder of QP DroneTech, the main hosting organisation of South Africa Flying Labs. She has founded and co-founded various other businesses such as Artisan College, Laundry and Management Consulting businesses in the past. She was nominated as a finalist for Women in Tech (2020) by the South African Tech Innovation Summit. Ndlovu was also involved as a keynote speaker at various conferences and her work in the drone industry has been featured in *Drone Professional 2*, a top-selling book on Amazon. Currently, Ndlovu serves as the Airward Judge, the first global digital awards scheme to recognise positive drone use cases.

Women in Media: Eleni Giokos and Lerato Mbele

Eleni Giokos is a CNN anchor and correspondent, based in Dubai. A regular anchor across CNN's news and business programming, she also presents the network's *Connecting Africa* and *Marketplace Middle East* feature shows.

Raised in South Africa, she has more than 15 years' experience working across TV, digital, radio and print media. One of CNN's most versatile correspondents, she joined the network in 2015. Giokos has interviewed heads of state and captains of industry. Her list of business and economic interviews includes the likes of International Monetary Fund Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva; ECB president, Christine Lagarde; and Virgin founder, Richard Branson; as well as a "who's who" of Africa's most prominent business leaders, including Aliko Dangote, Tony Elumelu and Patrice Motsepe. At CNN, she has reported on the ground across Africa, from Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt and Zimbabwe, to Rwanda, Senegal, Ghana, Lesotho and more. She has highlighted the growing links between Africa and Asia, reporting from South Korea and Kazakhstan, travelled to the United States to report from Washington DC and anchored shows from the network's London, New York and Atlanta hubs. Giokos began her career at CNBC Africa in 2005, before joining 24-hour news channel, eNCA, as an anchor and correspondent. She has contributed regularly to South Africa's *Mail and Guardian* newspaper, worked as a motivational speaker at public schools and trained aspiring journalism students. Giokos has an Honours degree in Journalism and Media Studies from the University of the Witwatersrand and was made an International Monetary Fund Fellow in 2014.

Lerato Mbele is a South African journalist and broadcaster. Formerly with the BBC, Mbele presented *Talking Business Africa*, a lifestyle business show focussing on prominent entrepreneurs and their business mindset in the boardroom and on the factory floor. She was also the longstanding presenter for *Africa Business Report*, a weekly programme that provided analyses on different sectors of the economy across African countries. In 2014, Mbele was named a Young Global Leader by the Switzerland-based World Economic Forum in the cohort selected that year. She is currently hosting a mid-morning show on Power FM.

Women in Diplomacy: Ambassador Gertrude Mongella

In 1985, Gertrude Mongella became Vice-Chairperson of the World Conference Assessing the Achievements of the United Nations (UN) Decade for Women. Four years later, she was Tanzanian Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women. From 1990 to 1993, she served as a member of the Board of Trustees to the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and later became Senior Adviser to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa on Gender Issues. Mongella became a Member of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1998, sitting on the African Women’s Committee on Peace and Development. Leader of the OAU Election Observer team for the 2002 Zimbabwean Presidential Election, Mongella was also a Goodwill Ambassador for the World Health Organisation’s Africa Region and designated Chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the African Press Organisation. Founder of the Advocacy for Women in Africa, she became the first President of the Pan-African Parliament in 2004 and was awarded the Delta Prize for Global Understanding by the University of Georgia a year later.

Women in Business: Sibongile Rejoice Sambo

Sibongile Rejoice Sambo, a pioneer in female aviation, is the founder and Managing Director of SRS Aviation in South Africa. Today, her all-female-owned company SRS Aviation (standing for the initials of her name) offers a wide range of personalised charter flights for private and business purposes worldwide. The entrepreneur holds a BA in Administration and majored in Political Science and Industrial Psychology and initially worked in human resources. She founded her business with loans from her mother and aunt.

Women in Community Service: Elizabeth Mpfu

Elizabeth Mpfu is a Zimbabwean organic farmer and activist who has dedicated her life pushing towards the betterment of smallholder farmers and women’s rights. She is currently the General Coordinator of the world’s largest peasant movement, *La Via Campesina*, a coalition of 164 organisations in 73 countries helping to give small and medium-sized farmers a voice. The coalition coordinates organisations’ support for rural women farmers and indigenous communities across Asia, Africa, America and Europe. *La Via Campesina* groups have helped organise and participate in protests for violence prevention and women empowerment.



Women in Sports: Banyana Banyana

In 2022, South Africa's national women's football team, Banyana Banyana, won the Women's Africa Cup of Nations for the first time ever. Banyana beat hosts Morocco 2-1 with South African striker Hildah Magala scoring twice in eight minutes. Under the guidance of award-winning coach, Desiree Ellis, the team fought against the odds – including injury and COVID-19 to take the trophy and make their nation proud. As African champions, Banyana Banyana has also qualified for the World Cup.

Women in Arts and Culture: Karabo Poppy Moletsane

Karabo Poppy Moletsane is a multi-award-winning illustrator, graphic designer and street artist from Vereeniging, South Africa. Her work is inspired by the visual aesthetic of Africa, both contemporary and traditional. Moletsane has done work for the *Wall Street Journal*, Google, Coca-Cola and Nike, including designing shoes worn by LeBron James. She created the graphics for the first African series on Netflix, *Queen Sono*, and *When They See Us*. Moletsane collaborated with Rich Mnisi on a unisex clothing collection, called *Running Errands*, in 2020. Her Utah jazz mural is installed in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 2021, she was commissioned by Wikipedia, along with Jasmina El Bouamraoui, to design 101 symbols for the 20th anniversary of Wikipedia. Her murals are displayed as urban installations across Johannesburg and have appeared in Times Square and music videos and on the Soweto Towers.





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The Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum: Showing global solidarity and taking accountability

More should be done to critically examine the underlying causes of conflict and violence as well as the role of great powers in entrenching conflict and division in many societies. We need more global honesty.

By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

On 8 March 2023, International Women’s Day, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) hosted the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum in partnership with the Kingdom of Norway.

More should be done to critically examine the underlying causes of conflict and violence as well as the role of great powers in entrenching conflict and division in many societies. We need more global honesty.

We were honoured to have such an illustrious list of women leaders who were part of the forum – many of whom I have had the honour to work with closely; women leaders whom I admire, and who are committed to intellectual scrutiny, endeavour and the advancement and achievement of the agenda of gender equality.

The patron of the forum, Mme Shope, has spent her life confronting and responding to the women question. During her time in the liberation struggle, along with many phenomenal women, she continued with the work begun by pioneers such as Mme Charlotte Maxeke, to fight against the triple oppression of women – oppression based on race, gender and class. The name Gertrude Shope belongs to a rare breed of women whose impact on the political progress of our country is yet to be fully appreciated.

In contributing to implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, DIRCO initiated the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum in August 2015. Since its inception,

the forum has addressed the numerous disadvantages women experience and how to implement policies to resolve these challenges such as representation and equality. The forum has remained at the forefront of finding solutions to ensure the advancement of the WPS Agenda in a meaningful manner. The implementation of WPS commitments remains slow, however, which is something we need to address.

Our dialogue forum this year was themed: *The Current State of Global Peace and Security Architecture – Utilisation of Existing Capacity by Peace Institutions*. We want to ensure that existing peace and security structures globally renew their commitments within institutions to fully utilise capacity that exists and ensure that women become significant stakeholders in peace processes, which impact them directly or indirectly.

We are at a moment in which global security – and the role played by women in promoting and maintaining it – is deteriorating. Military spending has reached an all-time high of US\$2.1 trillion; at the same time, funding for women’s organisations in conflict-affected countries is shrinking. So is the percentage of women in peace negotiations – now at

a measly 19% in United Nations (UN)-led processes, down from 23% in 2020. There is broad evidence that peace agreements are more sustainable when women are at the table, yet the percentage of women in peace negotiations is decreasing. We need to have serious discussions on how to reverse this trend.

As the intersecting crises of rising conflict, global health challenges and climate change threaten global well-being, recent progress on gender equality has already been a casualty. This global regression of women’s rights has been coupled with heightened violence against women human rights defenders, including those involved in UN peace and security processes. Since 2018, more than a third of briefers at the UN Security Council (SC) assisted by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security have been subjected to reprisals and intimidation.

In his 2022 report on WPS, the UN Secretary-General (SG) reflected on the urgency of women’s full and equal participation in peace and security processes around the world. Women’s participation in peace processes is about more than gender equality. It is about revolutionising peacebuilding: creating

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Women's participation in peace processes is about more than gender equality. It is about revolutionising peacebuilding: creating solutions that reflect the needs of all people in conflict-affected settings and addressing the underlying conditions that drive conflict in the first place.

solutions that reflect the needs of all people in conflict-affected settings and addressing the underlying conditions that drive conflict in the first place. It is about dismantling systems that permit and promote violence, so that we can move towards a new era of lasting global peace and security. In conflict-affected areas around the world, women peacebuilders are already working toward these goals. Often without institutional support and always at great personal risk, they continue to advocate, mediate and negotiate for a better future.

Against a backdrop of increasing violent conflicts and reversal of generational gains in women's rights, the UN SG's report shows that the WPS Agenda is farther from achieving its goals than ever before. The report points out that the sharp deterioration in peace and security globally is causing immense suffering and has a significant and specific impact on women and girls in conflict-affected countries.

The SG's report came out on the sidelines of the annual UNSC Open Debate on WPS, entitled: *Strengthening Women's Resilience and Leadership as a Path to Peace in Regions Plagued by Armed Groups*.

During the briefing, UN Women Executive Director, Sima Bahous, said: "At a time of unprecedented and intersecting crises, the last thing the world should do is walk back from its commitments on women, peace and security. Women are entitled to our best efforts for their protection in crisis. More importantly, we are all entitled to the dividends of women's full involvement in achieving peace. The Secretary-General's report makes clear what needs to be done: protect and empower women human rights defenders, ensure women's seat in peace talks and fund women's involvement in peace and security. There is no better test of our commitment to peace than the extent to which we ensure that women are at the heart of its pursuit."

In many countries, violent extremist groups and military actors have taken power by force and have revoked commitments on gender equality and are persecuting women for speaking up or simply being female. One of the most extreme expressions of the regression of women's and girl's rights is in Afghanistan. Since 15 August 2021, women and girls in

Afghanistan have been suffering systematic violations of their rights, directly resulting from the wilful adoption of measures and policies by the Taliban, aiming at erasing them completely from all spheres of public life. The Taliban has closed girls' secondary schools, banned women from showing their faces in public and restricted their right to leave their own homes.

Women on the ground have expressed deep concern for the end of schooling for girls, which has major negative effects on the economy and social development, among other spheres. The short- and long-term costs of these reversals of women's rights are tremendous. The suicide rates among women have reportedly increased; mortality rates, including maternal mortality, are expected to rise; and overall economic losses as a result of the erosion of women's employment are estimated to be up to US\$1 billion.

The theme for the Gertrude Shope Annual Dialogue Forum was *Global Solidarity and Accountability*. Now more than ever, we need to show our solidarity with the women of Afghanistan in a tangible way, and we must insist on accountability for what is happening under the Taliban Government. We need to develop clear recommendations on how the WPS Agenda can support these women who find themselves in such vulnerable situations.

The Gertrude Shope Women Mediators Network has made an immense contribution to drawing women in communities together. We are especially pleased with this initiative because it has shown how empowered women can act in supporting the restoration of peace and stability and in supporting women living in vulnerable conditions. One of the valuable lessons drawn from the experience of the network is that you do not only build peace because there is war, you build peace by investing in a peace infrastructure that can sustain you during times of crises. We need to explore as a collective whether the Mediators Network can be capacitated to work on the ground in support of women further afield, and whether funds for such work can be leveraged.

I thank all our partners for their support and immense contribution to this critical programme. This forum is doing incredible work, and we need to work towards building it from strength to strength. 🌍



Science for diplomacy: How science can reboot multilateralism and global solidarity

| We increasingly view science diplomacy as an instrument of our foreign policy.

By Dr GNM Pandor

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

In December 2022, the first World Science Forum (WSF) was held on African soil and South Africa was the first African country to host this forum under the theme *Science for Social Justice* in Cape Town.

These discussions helped shape the global science policy agenda in support of our national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. South Africa, as well as other developing countries, need to forge meaningful global science partnerships and attract foreign direct investment with a science and technology focus. We increasingly view science diplomacy as an instrument of our foreign policy.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) need to feature prominently in development cooperation, including through multilateral processes and trilateral and plurilateral partnerships because they are key cross-cutting enablers for sustainable development. Multilateralism can help reboot science in Africa and the developing world by providing an international platform for highlighting opportunities and addressing challenges.

To do this, developed and developing countries need to create an enabling domestic environment for innovation and have inclusive,

coherent and coordinated national systems of innovation. South Africa's *White Paper on STI* and its Decadal Implementation Plan seek to do this and make South Africa an attractive STI destination. The White Paper and Decadal Plan address the importance of STI in advancing sustainable development and the implementation of the National Development Plan, the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. As such, they speak directly to South Africa's national priorities, including addressing the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality, and therefore are also central to our foreign policy priorities.

The South African Inter-Ministerial Committee on STI seeks to move South Africa towards achieving a target of 1.5% expenditure of gross domestic product on research and development and increased funding for STI initiatives, in line with the White Paper.

As South Africa, we also plan to more effectively leverage our bilateral and plurilateral partnerships in the AU; Southern African Development Community; India, Brazil and South Africa; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa; the G20; and the UN to bridge the digital divide and secure access to technology

to create decent jobs and attract investment. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation, both Head Office and our missions abroad, intends to provide strategic support to the Department of Science and Innovation. The missions will initiate and foster key strategic relations and we will market South Africa's STI capacities and profile the country as an international partner.

It is also essential to have an enabling international environment that allows STI to flourish in developing and African countries. Too often, we see barriers placed in the way of our development such as restrictions on access to key technologies, unfair and discriminatory trade regimes, limited representation in multilateral decision-making structures and problems of not having markets of sufficient scale to allow new processes to become profitable. The African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement helps to unlock the African market to make it globally competitive.

Examples of how international cooperation has helped reboot science in Africa include the Square Kilometre Array and Artemis Programme, which will see some of the world's leading radio telescopes and deep space monitoring capacities possibly located in South Africa. The Artemis Programme is a human and robotic moon exploration programme led by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), involving the European Union and Japanese and Canadian space programmes. The programme's long-term goal is to establish a permanent human base on the moon and thereafter potentially on Mars.

NASA is exploring the possibility of constructing a deep space complex in

Examples of how international cooperation has helped reboot science in Africa include the Square Kilometre Array and Artemis Programme, which will see some of the world's leading radio telescopes and deep space monitoring capacities possibly located in South Africa.

Science can in turn help to reboot multilateralism by reminding everyone in these difficult and divisive times of the enormous progress humanity has secured by working together to address shared challenges and maximising opportunities.

Matjiesfontein, South Africa, as the Southern Hemisphere capacity for space-vehicle tracking and communications. NASA and the South African National Space Agency signed an agreement in 2020 to evaluate the feasibility of constructing three ground stations in Matjiesfontein. Cabinet has approved the project and negotiations on the funding of the first phase of construction are underway. These international projects to further our human understanding of space, the moon and Mars, are already providing an enormous boost to higher education and science in South Africa and have provided other key benefits such as the generation of quality jobs and socio-economic development.

Science can in turn help to reboot multilateralism by reminding everyone in these difficult and divisive times of the enormous progress humanity has secured by working together to address shared challenges and maximising opportunities.

There is currently a real danger that the international system of technical cooperation, which we have all benefitted from, could fragment into rival spheres of STI influence as the major powers compete with each other. This would be a disaster for everyone, especially for Africa, which needs the support of all the major powers.

There are numerous examples of how technical and scientific cooperation has helped improve the human condition. Hundreds of millions of people worldwide have been lifted out of poverty and can communicate, trade and cooperate with each other thanks to STI. There have also been massive breakthroughs in medicines and responses to diseases and

health challenges. The development of multiple effective vaccines for COVID-19 across the world in record-breaking time, and the ability of scientists in South Africa to identify two new variants is a major accomplishment.

South Africa has also been part of launching the World Health Organisation mRNA Hub, led by Afrigen, and the NantSA laboratory will collaborate with the mRNA hub by providing RNA enzymes required to produce vaccines. This is a tremendous contribution towards ensuring that Africa is not left behind if the world is faced with other debilitating pandemics in the future.

International scientific cooperation has also led to a greater understanding of complex global crises such as climate change, the loss of biological diversity and pollution. Understanding these crises is the first step towards addressing them. We are pleased with the outcomes secured at the COP27 Summit on the shared threat to our environment, which was informed by science. We cannot understate the importance of such multilateral agreements being forged even in times of geopolitical tension. The multilateral

agreements reached on regions of the planet such as Antarctica, and outer space being set aside for peaceful scientific research is also significant.

Going forward, we need a fundamental transformation and modernisation of the global financial architecture and reform of the multilateral development banks to make them fit-for-purpose to assist developing countries with their sustainable development and Just Transition efforts. By addressing issues such as debt, risk aversion to investing in developing countries and creating markets in developing regions for new technologies such as green hydrogen, the full potential of STI can be unleashed.

The possibilities of science are limitless, and as we forge ahead with ground-breaking research and innovation, it is inevitable that multilateralism will be strengthened as countries break through frontiers with far greater speed and effectiveness when working together. Our hope is that in rebooting multilateralism, science will also fortify the bonds of global solidarity on many of the pressing issues of our times. ■■

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In November 2022, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) signed a letter of intent to formalise a space exploration partnership.

The signing was followed by a sod-turning ceremony with NASA and the South African National Space Agency (SANSA), an entity of the DSI, signalling the renewal of the partnership through the establishment of a new communications facility that will help the Artemis missions return humans to the moon.

Located in Matjiesfontein, about 240 km northeast of Cape Town, the site will be one of three Lunar Exploration Ground Sites (LEGS) placed strategically around the globe.

These 18- to 24-metre communications antennas are intended to ensure near-continuous connectivity between astronauts on NASA's Artemis spacecraft and those who will subsequently come to work on and around the lunar surface.

Deputy Associate Administrator for NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) Programme, Dr Badri Younes, joined SANSA officials at the sod-turning ceremony, where the LEGS antenna is to be built.

"Location, weather and existing infrastructure make Matjiesfontein the ideal place to build this antenna.

"We really couldn't have asked for a better spot on Earth than here in South Africa, with whom we first partnered six decades ago to land the first humans on the lunar surface," said Dr Younes.

South Africa was home to a ground-tracking station outside Johannesburg at Hartebeesthoek, which played a critical role in NASA's Apollo missions in the 1960s.

Artemis, named for Apollo's mythical twin sister, will land the first woman and person of colour on the moon, paving the way for a long-term lunar presence and serving as a stepping-stone to sending astronauts to Mars.

"We see this partnership as mutually beneficial. The Matjiesfontein ground station will alleviate increased demand for NASA's Deep Space Network, allowing Artemis to meet its goals and expand our scientific knowledge," said DSI Director-General, Dr Phil Mjwara.

The Matjiesfontein site, according to the department, will join future LEGS facilities at NASA's White Sands Complex in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and a still-to-be-determined location in Australia.

With LEGS stations in North America, South Africa and Australia, the moon will always be in Earth's view to ensure essential, enhanced direct-to-Earth communications capabilities, up to two million kilometres away through NASA's Near Space Network.

"We are pleased that this project has reached a significant milestone with the support of the Department of Science and Innovation as well as the partnership of NASA.

"The Matjiesfontein ground station extends SANSA space capabilities and specialisation, taking the agency a notch higher as a global player in space science and technology," said Acting Commercial Services Executive at SANSA, Tiaan Strydom.

"The moon brought NASA and South Africa together 60 years ago. I'm so pleased it's done so again today," Dr Younes said.

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Building a better Africa and world

We execute our vision to build a better Africa and world, being cognisant that we find ourselves within a global VUCA world, characterised by increased Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity.

By Alvin Botes

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa's foreign policy is pivoted on the four concentric circles of Pan-Africanism, global South solidarity, cooperation with the industrialised North and the deepening of multilateralism, through global governance.

We execute our vision to build a better Africa and world, being cognisant that we find ourselves within a global VUCA world, characterised by increased Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity.

Our National Interest document is a key interlocutor in developing strategies that will effectively counter-balance Volatility with Vision, Uncertainty with Understanding, Complexity with Clarity and Ambiguity with Agility.

Ubuntu diplomacy

The world abroad and the world at home are not two solitudes. They are interconnected and interdependent. The plight of the oppressed and vulnerable in the world demands proximity of South Africa's Ubuntu diplomacy, foreground on solidarity.

South Africa opposes the United States (US) designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, together with a repudiation of the enforcement of Title III of the US Helms-Burton Act. These punitive measures reinforce the US blockade, which causes great economic hardship, especially for the poor and vulnerable citizens of Cuba.

The Palestinian people have been beleaguered, besieged and betrayed by the inaction of the international community. Former President of Mozambique, Samora Machel,

reminded us that "international solidarity is not an act of charity, but an act of unity between allies fighting on different terrains toward the same objectives". The two-state solution, in accordance with the Oslo peace accords must be implemented by the State of Israel.

President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted President Brahim Ghali of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic for a State Visit on 18 October 2022 in Pretoria. We must confirm the 1975 International Court of Justice ruling that Morocco has absolutely no right to occupy territory in Western Sahara and call on the African Union (AU) to engage with the 1983 Peace Plan, adopted by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which provides for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. South Africa has strengthened the message of solidarity for the loss of life in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic, during

the earthquake. We further applaud the South African Police Service's search-and-rescue mobilisation and non-state actors, such as Gift of the Givers, for engaging in humanitarian diplomacy.

Peace diplomacy: African continent

For South Africa, the negotiation and entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the Pelindaba Treaty, is a true reflection of what African states have achieved in pursuance of our common security objectives.

Lesotho

President Ramaphosa provided sterling leadership in Lesotho as Southern African Development Community (SADC)-appointed special envoy to that country. South Africa further welcomes the commitment made by Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, to prioritise the implementation of the comprehensive national reform process.

Eswatini

South Africa underpins the Extra-Ordinary SADC Troika Summit position urging the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini to urgently initiate the process of the National Dialogue, which must be an Inclusive Dialogue. We note SADC's condemnation of the killing of Thulani Maseko, a leading human rights lawyer and political activist in the Kingdom of Eswatini, and its encouragement that the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini should conduct a comprehensive investigation into his killing.

Mozambique

South Africa chaired the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and provided support to Mozambique through the SADC Mission on Mozambique (SAMIM). Since the deployment of SAMIM, there has been tremendous improvement in the humanitarian and security situation, resulting in the return of internally displaced persons to their areas of origin. South Africa further joined the Extra-Ordinary SADC Troika Summit solidarity in honour of SAMIM personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty in Mozambique.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

South Africa is deeply concerned about the unstable security situation in the eastern part of the DRC. We particularly wish to recognise the valiant effort of South African peacekeepers serving in the United Nations (UN) Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and extend our personal condolence on the passing of Sergeant Vusi Mabena, a flight engineer killed in action.

For South Africa, the negotiation and entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the Pelindaba Treaty, is a true reflection of what African states have achieved in pursuance of our common security objectives.

Ethiopia

We congratulate the AU High-Level Panel, which has, among others, Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and former Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women as a member. It has brought about the Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front on 2 November 2022 in Pretoria, South Africa.

Humanitarian diplomacy

South Africa executes its humanitarian diplomacy to the continent and further afield through the African Renaissance Fund. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we partnered with the UN World Food Programme to establish a temporary assistance hub at OR Tambo International Airport. Some of South Africa's largest humanitarian projects are in South Sudan and Mozambique.

Economic diplomacy

African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)

The AfCFTA is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, enjoined by its seven aspirations to realise an inclusive prosperity. A South African, Wamkele Mene, is the Secretary-General and the penholder on implementation of the prescripts of the Abuja Treaty and Lagos Plan of Action. The promotion of economic diplomacy has dialectically contributed to South Africa's investment target of R1.2 trillion.

South Africa's diplomatic missions across the globe stand ready to mobilise R2 trillion by 2028, with a particular focus to increase intra-Africa trade, which stands at 17% of total trade.

In 2021, South Africa exported more to Africa (R385 billion) than to the European Union (EU) (R355 billion).

The AfCFTA will cover a market of 1.2 billion Africans with a combined gross domestic product of US\$2.5 trillion; increase intra-African trade by up to 52.3%; and expand the size of Africa's economy to US\$29 trillion by 2050, as estimated by the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Global governance

As the only African country in the G20 and Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), as well as being one of the top 10 strategic partners of the EU, South Africa continues to place the African continent and the global South on the agenda in these fora.

A critical priority for 2023 is South Africa's Chairship of BRICS under the theme: *BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism*.

The global South is elated with the re-election of Brazilian President Lula da Silva, and we welcome his support for our leadership in BRICS.

One of the issues which will be discussed in BRICS is how to restructure the global, political, economic and financial architecture so that it becomes more balanced, representative, inclusive and equitable.

The international community voted overwhelmingly for South Africa to be a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the next three years (2023 to 2025).

We congratulate Advocate Mojankunyane Gumbi for being appointed the UN's Special Adviser for Addressing Racism in the Workplace.

Ukraine-Russia conflict

The reform of the UN and the UN Security Council is urgent and necessary; the latter in accordance with the Ezulweni Consensus, which depicts the position of the Common African Group. SADC's Extra-Ordinary Troika Summit adopted the draft AU Declaration on the US-proposed Countering Malign Russian Activities in Africa Act and to reaffirm the stance of non-alignment on conflicts outside the continent and the region.

Multilateralism

South Africa will host the Eighth South Africa-EU Summit in the first half of 2023. I wish to reiterate the South African Government's appreciation for the continued EU support to development cooperation and during the pandemic and to Biovac and the mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub in South Africa.

"Each day carries both the burden of its past and the seeds of its future." – OR Tambo, 1987. 🌱



“We must dare to invent the future”

Where there is strong collaboration among all organs and specialised agencies of the African Union and regional economic communities, accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA will produce the results we all desire.

By Wamkele Mene
Secretary-General, African Continental
Free Trade Area Secretariat

The African Union (AU) theme of the year for 2023 is *Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation*.

The theme coincides with the 60th commemoration of the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in the historic city of Addis Ababa. Sixty years after our founding mothers and fathers established the OAU, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a tool to be deployed by the AU to position Africa to adequately respond to the challenges confronting our continent, the public health crisis from which the continent is emerging and the food insecurity crisis that is attributable to the current geopolitical context.

In the area of public health, the concluded Protocol on Intellectual Property Rights, which the Assembly adopted recently, is an

important instrument that has the potential to address Africa's public health and industrial development imperatives. To address the food insecurity crisis, the Council of Ministers of Trade resolved to develop a strategy for boosting intra-Africa trade in agricultural products, an important outcome of a recent meeting of the Council of Ministers Responsible for Trade that was held in Gaborone, Botswana.

The recent conclusion of the Protocol on Investment, Competition and Intellectual Property Rights provides a legal basis to anchor an effective and comprehensive "one African market" and will be an accelerator for reaching the aspirations of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

Having concluded the Protocol on Investment, Competition and Intellectual Property Rights in this year of accelerated implementation of the AfCFTA, we are on track to conclude the Protocol on Digital Trade and the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade. The Protocol on Digital Trade, among other important objectives, is set to broaden access to trade – particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are led by women and young entrepreneurs – thereby addressing the critical imperative of digital financial inclusion and the need for more investment in such inclusion.

The acceleration of the implementation of the AfCFTA will not only be in the context of concluding the establishment of the legal construct, it will also be in accelerating commercially meaningful new market access across the AfCFTA market. In this regard, the Council of Ministers of Trade congratulated and welcomed the Market Access Offer or Tariff Offer that the Southern African Customs Union recently submitted; an important step in our desire to boost intra-Africa trade and create commercially meaningful opportunities for our private sector, particularly SMEs that are led by women and young Africans.

Where there is strong collaboration among all organs and specialised agencies of the AU and regional economic communities (RECs), accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA will produce the results we all desire. In accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA in accordance with the theme of this year, we must leverage on Africa's development finance institutions such as our strategic partners Afreximbank and AfDB, to ensure that we build on the success recorded thus far.

Working together with the AU family, Afreximbank and AfDB, we have achieved significant success since February 2020. Under extremely difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic and the challenging

The comprehensive roadmap for implementation of the theme for this year, relies significantly on all AU organs, agencies and RECs for successful implementation and to enable us to transition from negotiations to practical steps that have to be taken for implementation of the AfCFTA.

geo-economic context of our time, we have been able to make significant and meaningful advancements:

- We established a AfCFTA Adjustment Fund, which through Afreximbank, already has a US\$1-billion capitalisation and more will be raised to enable all AfCFTA state parties to benefit from the AfCFTA.
- We commenced commercially meaningful trade under the Guided Trade Initiative, where eight countries: Ghana, Egypt, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, Mauritius, Cameroon and Tunisia, traded goods under the preferential rules of the AfCFTA. The most important aspect of the Guided Trade Initiative was in demonstrating that beyond enhanced trade flows in Africa – which is important – the AfCFTA can deliver inclusive benefits and opportunities for the marginalised. The tea that was exported from Kenya to Ghana was produced by small-holder farmers, whom the Government of Kenya has organised into cooperatives for export under the AfCFTA. A remarkable story of inclusivity in trade; a remarkable story of Africa demonstrating that trade does not have to be intrinsically a zero-sum game.
- Working with Afreximbank, we launched the Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS) to facilitate trade in local currency under the AfCFTA. The immediate beneficiaries of the PAPSS are SMEs that are led by women and young entrepreneurs who seek to take advantage of a market whose combined GDP is projected to be close to US\$7 trillion by the year 2035.
- In record time, we established a fully functional secretariat that has 50/50 gender parity, that has as many men as it has women, including in the most senior leadership positions, and that has language and representation of all of Africa's region. Some 35% of the staff of the Secretariat are under

the age of 35, yet we have to do more to ensure youth empowerment and to advance gender parity, particularly in the male-dominated area of trade law and trade policy.

- On Rules of Origin, for the first time in the economic history of Africa, we have reached 88.3% convergence. In the almost 5 000 products that are traded in Africa, we now have a single set of rules for trade in 88.3% of those products, which has the potential to position our continent as an appealing investment destination and for accelerated industrial development.

The comprehensive roadmap for implementation of the theme for this year relies significantly on all AU organs, agencies and RECs for successful implementation and to enable us to transition from negotiations to practical steps that have to be taken for implementation of the AfCFTA.

I have not mentioned the challenges that we shall confront along the way, because the challenges that we certainly shall confront must not define our resolve to succeed. As we take a positive step towards reaching the milestones of the Abuja Treaty, we must expect that economic and market integration is a difficult yet worthwhile task.

I conclude with the words of the late Comrade President Thomas Isidore Sankara, "We must dare to invent the future". We must dare to invent the economy and future of the Africa that we want. 🇸🇩

As we take a positive step towards reaching the milestones of the Abuja Treaty, we must expect that economic and market integration is a difficult yet worthwhile task.





Investors should seize the economic and business opportunities to establish a commercial presence in South Africa, said Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, Wamkele Mene.

Mene was addressing delegates from varying industries in South Africa and across the world at the fifth South Africa Investment Conference (SAIC) on Thursday, 13 April 2023.

Mene outlined the value proposition for the AfCFTA Agreement, saying that it will allow investors to gain access to a single market, which is projected to grow to 1.7 billion people and US\$6.7 trillion in consumer and business spending by 2030.

"By 2050, the continent will be home to 2.5 billion people. The largest working force in the world by 2050 will be in Africa. At that point, estimates are that consumer spending and business spending in Africa will be in excess of US\$16 trillion.

"This is an opportunity that our continent and our investors should not miss. It is of course expected that there will be challenges but I encourage everyone to look at Africa with a long-term view of investing and to see your returns in your investments," Mene said at the gathering held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg.

According to World Bank projections, by implementing the trade agreement, Africans will have an opportunity to lift 100 million people out of poverty, 60 million Africans out of abject poverty and the rest out of moderate poverty.

Increasing Africa's GDP

The implementation of the agreement is also expected to contribute US\$450 million combined gross domestic product (GDP) to Africa's GDP and increase wages by close to 9%.

"We project that the most immediate beneficiaries will be small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) that are led by women; this is why this agreement is so important for the future of our continent," he said.

The AfCFTA Agreement seeks to eliminate trade barriers and boost intra-Africa trade. In particular, it is to advance trade in value-added production across all service sectors of the African economy.

The AfCFTA will contribute to establishing regional value chains in Africa, enabling investment and job creation. The practical implementation of the AfCFTA has the potential to foster industrialisation, job creation and investment, thus enhancing the competitiveness of Africa in the medium to long term.

"The longstanding ambition of the African Union (AU) is that one day our continent must be a common one. That is why we recently concluded protocols on investment protection with some ratifications to be done on international property rights and competition, which are so critical for the economic integration in Africa," Mene said.

Protocol

In July this year, heads of state and the ministers of trade should conclude two additional legal instruments that include a protocol on digital trade and a protocol on women and youth in trade.

"The Protocol on Digital Trade represents a very unique opportunity for Africa to create digital economy jobs and enhance digital innovation. It will also address the imperative of inclusion, particularly the inclusion of SMMEs led by women and young entrepreneurs.

"With the direction of the heads of state, the Protocol on Women and Youth and Trade should enable us to move beyond aspirations for inclusion and present concrete commercially meaningful opportunities for women and young people through this protocol," he said.

Manufacturing

In 2019, Africa imported US\$16 billion worth of pharmaceuticals and it presents an opportunity to enhance the local production in pharmaceuticals. Mene noted that the continent had a challenge of over-reliance on imports for pharmaceuticals.

"In 2020, the challenge with the onset of the pandemic has proven to be an opportunity for job creation in Africa and an opportunity to address Africa's reliance on the protocol for international property rights," he said.

In July 2022, BioNTech established the first mRNA Vaccine Manufacturing Facility in Rwanda with plans for vaccine manufacturing that spans the continent and includes South Africa, Ghana and Senegal.

"South Africa has a very strong manufacturing sector. By the year 2035, Africa shall require five billion units of vehicles ... this is an opportunity for us to include other countries in Africa who want to be part of the auto value chain in manufacturing components and part of trade under the AfCFTA.

"The agreement also presents an opportunity for countries that are producers of lithium. Three of them, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo, are on the continent. They should be in the top five of producers in the world so that when the transition from combustion engines to electric vehicles takes place, Africa takes the lead in the production of vehicles that are powered by lithium engines," Mene said.

Ministers of trade have concluded 88.3% of the rules of origins for trading in Africa. However, the textile and auto sectors remain unresolved by the ministers.

"We have operationalised a protocol that will assist in resolving disputes that might arise and will be adjudicated by a competent and impartial panel of experts that will be nominated by the private sector," he said.

Although there are safeguards in place to mitigate challenges, Mene acknowledged that challenges that might arise include institutional capacity at national level, the cost of trade finance, which has to be brought down and the lack of trade support of infrastructure.

"We will have to confront [this] as we implement the agreement. It is a very ambitious agreement, wide in scope and ambitious in the direction of economic integration of the continent. The fact that 47 countries have ratified the agreement symbolises strong commitment on their part," Mene said.

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BRICS Partnership: Forging strong people-to-people ties

In the words of former President Nelson Mandela: Our differences make the people of BRICS a global rainbow community — a shining light in providing leadership and charting a new era of harmony, peace, cooperation and development for the benefit of all.

By Prof. Anil Sooklal
Ambassador-at-Large: Asia and BRICS and South Africa's BRICS Sherpa
Department of International Relations and Cooperation

One of the key focus areas of South Africa's Chairship in 2023 is to deepen and strengthen people-to-people ties among BRICS countries.

A people-centred BRICS community is one of the major strengths of our cooperative relations.

Our BRICS partnership has deep roots in the formal government cooperation tracks across all three pillars of cooperation: political and security, financial and economic, as well as social/people-to-people cooperation.

The partnership is more than government-to-government relations. It is inclusive of women, youth, civil societies, media, ruling parties, parliaments, law societies, cultural organisations, sports federations, arts, theatre and film, to name but a few.

Some of the global narratives about BRICS constantly aim to highlight our differences. It speaks of our different histories, cultures, religions, development paths and forms of governance as something negative. However,

the uniqueness of BRICS is precisely the diversity and richness which weld us together as a powerful global force. It brings us together to work together in cooperation not only for our own benefit but for the global community.

In the words of former President Nelson Mandela: Our differences make the people of BRICS a global rainbow community — a shining light in providing leadership and charting a new era of harmony, peace, cooperation and development for the benefit of all.

We live in a very fractured world and therefore, new solutions are desperately needed for the challenges confronting humanity today.

We have seen the global pandemic erase almost all the gains we have made towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The world is increasingly divided and the return to Cold War mentalities and the preservation of hegemonic tendencies have further exacerbated the situation, especially for the global South.

The key developmental challenges of poverty, underdevelopment and inequality

are increasing, but are being relegated to the margins by those who have the means to make a difference. Attention and resources are being shifted away from the Sustainable Development Goals, including from the most needy and vulnerable.

We cannot count on those who profess to be the leaders of the global community.

BRICS as a powerful voice of the global South must leverage its combined resources, influence and leadership, in partnership with other like-minded emerging market and developing countries, to provide the global leadership that is lacking in the world today. This is what is expected of BRICS.

This is the motivation for South Africa's theme as Chair of BRICS in 2023: *BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism*.

Our theme emphasises the value of BRICS as a partnership of leading emerging markets and developing countries generating momentum towards global growth, sustainable development and inclusion of the global South





BRICS as a powerful voice of the global South must leverage its combined resources, influence and leadership, in partnership with other like-minded emerging market and developing countries, to provide the global leadership that is lacking in the world today. This is what is expected of BRICS.

in the world system. Governments cannot deliver on this alone. It requires a whole-of-community and whole-of-society approach. The importance of social and people-to-people cooperation was visible in the BRICS response to COVID-19. BRICS was at the forefront of a compassionate response to the global North and the South.

Our response to climate change and the restructuring of our economies must also be compassionate. Our solutions to one problem should not leave others behind.

As Chair, we will explore how BRICS can lead with solutions for an equitable Just Transition. We can manage the risks associated with climate change while still improving the lives and futures of those people employed under the umbrella of old industries.

An equitable Just Transition will require new ideas and initiatives. BRICS is a platform for sharing and learning. Our cooperation has led to the establishment of the BRICS Academic Forum, BRICS Think Tank Council, Network of BRICS Universities and the virtual BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre.

More than 100 multilateral BRICS research projects have been funded under the BRICS

Framework Programme. Our research partnership is based on joint ownership and shared responsibility; the real and open sharing of experience, expertise and resources; and a determination for BRICS research to advance the global good.

Our differences as well as our unique identity and strength become the anchor of our ever-expanding cooperation benefitting from our richness and diversity. BRICS brings people together to forge new friendships, deepen relations and mutual understanding between BRICS peoples in the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, diversity, solidarity and mutual respect.

Under our Chairship, we will continue the wide range of BRICS people-to-people platforms, including the Youth Summit, Young Diplomats Forum, Parliamentary Forum, Civil BRICS as well as the Media Forum.

We will focus on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Culture Agreement, promoting the development of BRICS cultural digitisation and deepening cooperation in areas such as cultural arts, heritage and industry.

We look forward to changing narratives in the BRICS Media Forum, empowering our media with the BRICS International

Journalism Training Programme and the Joint Photography Exhibition.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has emphasised that BRICS is centred on people-to-people contact. The pandemic weakened these links when all travel was banned. A return to people-to-people contact will help our travel and tourism sectors recover.

This year, we will further strengthen the BRICS Alliance for Green Tourism to forge a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive tourism sector and promote the high-quality development of BRICS culture and tourism cooperation.

We encourage sports ministries and federations of BRICS to strengthen communication and maintain coordination in international sports affairs. We look forward to hosting the BRICS Games in Durban later this year.

Our Chairship is not isolated. It builds on the excellent work of the chairs before us. We are seized with the important discussions on the guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures for BRICS membership expansion.

For South Africa, the immense interest in joining BRICS is recognition that we remain true to our foundational values of creating a more inclusive and equitable global community, strengthening multilateralism and being a catalyst for global economic recovery and growth and a stable and peaceful world.

As a collective, we will work together both to address challenges and explore opportunities for mutual benefit for all. We will work together to place BRICS at the forefront of shaping a new people-centred global society. 🌍

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Fostering partnerships with **BRICS** energy investors

BRICS countries are uniquely positioned to support South Africa's energy recovery. BRICS countries contain almost half the world's population and account for approximately 40% of the world's energy consumption.

By Prof. Anil Sooklal
Ambassador-at-Large: Asia and BRICS and South Africa's BRICS Sherpa
Department of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa took over as Chair of BRICS on 1 January 2023 in a difficult national and global economic environment. Globally, the conflict in

Ukraine and the West's unilateral sanctions have battered economies that were struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. With Russia being the world's third-largest oil producer, second-largest natural gas producer and a top producer

of steel and wheat, the conflict has led to substantial increases in food and energy prices that have disproportionately impacted us in the global South. As government, we have the South African Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan



With our natural resources, BRICS countries are major role players in the global supply of energy and its dynamics. BRICS countries have developed similar energy policies to manage energy risks. BRICS countries have both the expertise and technologies to use their energy resources to enhance energy security and cooperation.

natural gas. Brazil is rich in biomass energy with its output of 25% of the world's total biomass energy in 2020.

With our natural resources, BRICS countries are major role players in the global supply of energy and its dynamics. BRICS countries have developed similar energy policies to manage energy risks. BRICS countries have both the expertise and technologies to use their energy resources to enhance energy security and cooperation.

BRICS recognised these complementarities and in 2020, BRICS adopted the Roadmap for BRICS Energy Cooperation up to 2025, aimed at building a strategic partnership in energy cooperation. The roadmap is being implemented in phases.

The first phase is the research phase, which started under South Africa's Chairship of BRICS in 2018 with the establishment of the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform. The platform brings together experts, companies and research institutes to coordinate common interests of BRICS in research and development of innovative technology and policies, with seven studies being released to date at BRICS Ministers of Energy meetings. Last year, China presented an additional study on the development of renewable energy and smart grids in the BRICS countries. This year, Russia is leading a study on energy security. The roadmap also established the publication of the annual *BRICS Energy Report*.

During the second phase, BRICS countries will identify the needs and challenges to energy security and find areas where BRICS cooperation can provide solutions. The third phase aims at advancing mutually

with detailed interventions to address our energy crisis with the aim of fixing Eskom, fundamentally transforming the electricity sector to achieve long-term energy security and enabling an accelerating investment in the energy sector. It is clear that we cannot do this alone. President Cyril Ramaphosa has called on our BRICS partners to assist South Africa in its recovery.

Our first priority responds to the significant transformational changes we are making in our economy, particularly in the energy sector. We therefore aim to "Develop a Partnership towards an Equitable Just Transition". This priority aims to find solutions to transformational energy change, which will also improve people's lives and livelihoods in the sectors that supported the old economy, such as mining.

BRICS countries are uniquely positioned to support South Africa's energy recovery. BRICS countries contain almost half of the world's population and account of approximately 40% of the world's energy

consumption. As BRICS, we are responsible for 48% of the world's coal consumption, 22% of the world's oil consumption and 13.5% of the world's natural gas consumption.

While renewable energy consumption is only 16% at the moment, BRICS renewable energy consumption has been growing year by year, driven by most BRICS members' commitment to mitigating climate change.

BRICS countries are not only consumers of energy, as all members have substantial fossil fuels and available renewable energy resources. BRICS members account for 40% of the world's coal reserves, 25% of the world's natural gas reserves and 8% of the world's oil reserves. In the renewable energy sector, solar power from South Africa, Brazil and India; wind power from Russia and China; as well as biomass from Brazil, all enjoy substantial resource advantages.

Within BRICS, China is the world's largest coal producer with 50% of the world's output in 2020 and India with 10%. Russia produced 12% of the world's oil and 16% of the world's

The depth and strength of our BRICS partnership allow us to bring multiple BRICS solutions to the table, including financing, trade, investment, industrialisation, skills development and training, research, development and innovation, as well as partnership with African countries and leading countries of the global South.

beneficial cooperation, including exchange of best practice, use of BRICS advanced technology as well as opportunities for trade and investment in each other's economies. Of course, we are not waiting for this third phase before we work with our BRICS partners on energy solutions.

India is already South Africa's biggest coal export market and brings in almost half of our total coal revenue. China is reopening opportunities for imports from South Africa, following its political fallout with Australia, previously an important coal source for them. China has substantial oil and gas trade with Russia, oil and gas cooperation with Brazil, a joint natural gas pipeline project with India as well as renewable energy trade with South Africa. South Africa is a pioneer in the area of clean coal, in which India and China have an interest. The Russian state energy company, Rosatom, has signed an agreement with South Africa to construct small hydropower plants in Mpumalanga as a key component of South Africa's energy security strategy.

Part of South Africa's response to the energy crisis involves implementing a just transition to a low-carbon economy. Climate change also poses considerable risks to jobs, businesses and the economy. South Africa is among the most water-scarce countries in the world, and recent events in KwaZulu-Natal have shown that extreme weather events such as floods are occurring more often, with devastating impact on our infrastructure.

The response to the electricity crisis provides an opportunity to also mitigate our contribution to, and the risks from, climate change and adapt to a low-carbon economy.

South Africa's Just Transition Plan aims to significantly lower emissions of greenhouse gases and harness investments in new energy technologies, electric vehicles and energy-efficient appliances. South Africa's Integrated Resource Plan, which drives our energy policy, therefore envisions that renewable solar and

wind energy will generate almost 25% of our electricity by 2030. Coal, which currently accounts for 85% of South Africa's electricity generation, will drop below 60% in less than a decade. The impact on communities reliant on coal extraction and production is an important element of the just transition as it aims to ensure that communities tied to high-emitting energy industries are not left behind and are provided with new skills and new economic and employment opportunities.

During South Africa's Chairship of BRICS in 2013, we established the BRICS Business Council to strengthen and promote economic, trade, business and investment ties among the business communities of the BRICS countries. The BRICS Business Council also identifies problems and bottlenecks and recommends solutions to BRICS.

This year, under South Africa's Chairship, the council's Energy and Green Economy Working Group is focussed on concrete outputs of the just transition. The council has developed an energy skills roadmap for South Africa, which will be rolled out to the other BRICS countries. The roadmap identifies the skills available as well as the skills necessary and identifies training programmes as well as sponsors across the BRICS countries.

There are discussions on the possible establishment of a BRICS African Centre of Excellence on the Just Energy Transition, which would support a network of researchers focussed on technology, socio-economic, environmental, financial and other aspects of the just transition that would inform policy-making in BRICS countries in collaboration with the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform.

The question is how to identify funding for investment in renewable energy. There is a lot of money available globally for renewable energy projects, with National Treasury estimating that there are US\$12 trillion available from sources such as the Green


Climate Fund. However, developing countries struggle to access these funds because of the perceived risk of investing in a developing country. South Africa's policy uncertainty and regulatory challenges have been cited as obstacles to South African investment opportunities, with other funders also banning financing and investment in coal for energy, even if it is clean coal.

India and China are able to source their own international finance for renewable energy by offering their own-currency Green Bonds known as Green Masala Bonds and Green Panda Bonds. The Green Panda Bond is issued by the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).

The NDB is a multilateral development bank established by BRICS countries to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Sustainability is fundamental to the founding principles of the NDB and the bank aims to deliver transformative impact to BRICS member countries with a target of 40% of all the bank's loans funding projects relating to mitigation and adaptation for the effects of climate change by 2026.

South Africa and China have so far been the leading beneficiaries of sustainable financing from the NDB with respect to clean and renewable energy. South Africa is the beneficiary of 12 projects financed by the NDB to the value of US\$5.4 billion. Five of these projects support the energy sector, with three of those funding renewable energy projects to the value of R13 billion.

The opportunities for BRICS to support transformative change in our economy are obvious. As Chair of BRICS this year, our strategic vision is to harness our existing mutually beneficial BRICS cooperation to address issues of National Interest and national concern for South Africa in a holistic and multidisciplinary way.

The depth and strength of our BRICS partnership allow us to bring multiple BRICS solutions to the table, including financing, trade, investment, industrialisation, skills development and training, research, development and innovation, as well as partnership with African countries and leading countries of the global South. 

As Chair of BRICS this year, our strategic vision is to harness our existing mutually beneficial BRICS cooperation to address issues of National Interest and national concern for South Africa in a holistic and multidisciplinary way.

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Inspiring new ways

India's G20 Presidency: Consolidating the partnership with Africa

India's G20 Presidency provides a strategic opportunity to reenergise and deepen the historic India-Africa partnership underpinned by the joint desire to create a more inclusive and better world for all: One Earth, One Family, One Future.

By Prof. Anil Sooklal

Ambassador-at-Large:

Asia and BRICS and South Africa's BRICS Sherpa

Department of International Relations and Cooperation

India assumes the G20 Presidency at a very challenging period in modern human history. Not since the end of the Cold War has the world been so fractured and polarised as a result of several simultaneous challenges. Thomas Friedman has described the current era as the "Age of Acceleration". A number of global issues are cascading on the human psyche, all at the same time creating a dilemma on how to effectively address these challenges simultaneously. These include the advent of new technologies, climate change, biodiversity loss as well as globalisation. More recently, the impact

of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Russia-Ukraine conflict have all collectively contributed to have a devastating impact on the global community.

All of the above issues are receiving attention within the G20 Agenda. However, the impact of these challenges is felt most among the most vulnerable countries, especially the least developed (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) as well as Africa.

In Africa itself, over 30 million people were pushed into extreme poverty in 2021 and about 22 million jobs were lost due to the pandemic. Furthermore, the Russia-Ukraine conflict is expected to push a further 1.8 million Africans into extreme poverty in 2022, rising to over 2.3 million in 2023. The dire plight of developing countries in containing and addressing the

severe impact of the pandemic and the conflict as well as the challenges posed by climate change must receive priority attention in the G20 Development Agenda under India's Presidency.

India, as a developing country, must prioritise the development agenda and ensure that it assumes centre stage within the G20. The global South will look to India to ensure that issues of development that are critical in advancing their development, including meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), receive priority attention in the G20 in 2023.

The Development Working Group (DWG)

In 2010, the G20 leaders identified the need to establish the G20 DWG with a mandate to lead in the implementation of the group's development agenda. At the Seoul Summit

in November 2010, G20 leaders adopted the Multi-year Action Plan on Development and the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth. These two documents guide the work of the DWG. South Africa has served as a permanent co-chair of the DWG since its inception. Since 2010, each successive Presidency of the G20 has placed specific development issues as the core focus of the DWG during its Presidency, while also following up on commitments already made. The *Comprehensive Accountability Report*, released in 2013 for the first time, served to inform on G20 commitments annually, namely, an update of the G20 Action Plan and an assessment of the progress on the development commitments undertaken by G20 leaders.

Africa and the G20 Development Agenda

How has Africa benefitted from the G20's programmes and commitments in addressing its developmental challenges? South Africa is the only African country that is a G20 member. The Chair of the African Union (AU) and the Chair of the AU's Development Agency – the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA – NEPAD) both serve on the G20 as observers. Within the G20, South Africa has consistently advocated for the advancement of the AU's Agenda 2063.

Since its inception, the DWG has become an important instrument in addressing the most critical development challenges of the global South, including Africa. DWG programmes over the years have focussed on a whole range of development issues, including human resource development, women's economic empowerment, climate action, infrastructure, green energy, food security, industrialisation, digitalisation, trade, private investments as well as job creation. The 2012 progress report of the DWG notes that the G20 must serve as

The global South will look to India to ensure that issues of development that are critical in advancing their development, including meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, receive priority attention in the G20 in 2023.

a relevant coordination forum for international economic cooperation. Effective contributions by international organisations and G20 countries and support by concerted actions of G20 members are fundamental to support national efforts of developing countries in overcoming hunger and poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Following repeated calls by South Africa as well the chairs of the AU and the AUDA-NEPAD for Africa's development agenda to receive support from the G20, there emerged an Africa-specific programme in the DWG under the Chinese and German presidencies of the G20 respectively in 2016 and 2017.

The G20 Leaders' Summit in Hangzhou, China, in September in 2016, launched the G20 initiative on supporting industrialisation in Africa and the LDCs. This initiative was welcomed by African countries as it addressed a critical gap in Africa's economic regeneration. Although this was a voluntary initiative that has had limited direct impact in addressing Africa's industrialisation, it nonetheless brought sharp focus on the need of the global community to partner in Africa's industrialisation.

The Hangzhou Leaders' Summit notes: "We launched the G20 initiative on supporting industrialisation in Africa and LDCs to strengthen their inclusive growth and development potential through voluntary actions." To date, not much has been achieved in advancing Africa's industrialisation through the G20 Hangzhou commitment, given that

it relies on voluntary actions. An equally important initiative meant to advance Africa's development was launched during the German Presidency of the G20, namely the Compact with Africa (CwA). The compact was initiated to promote private investments in Africa, including in infrastructure.

The CwA's primary objective is to increase the attractiveness of private investments through substantial improvements of the macro business and financing frameworks. It seeks to bring together reform-minded African countries, international organisations and bilateral partners from the G20 and beyond to coordinate country-specific reform agendas, support respective policy measures and advertise investment opportunities to the private sector. The initiative is demand-driven and open to all African countries.

To date, only 12 African countries are party to the CwA. The question arises as to why so few African countries have become part of the CwA given the benefits it professes to accrue to CwA members? According to the CwA 2022 monitoring report, the outlook for CwA countries is relatively better than global and regional projections. As a group, CwA countries are expected to continue to grow despite headwinds coming from the conflict in Ukraine, potential scarring from the ongoing pandemic and the intensification of the food and fuel shock that is already underway.

It is obvious that most African countries are reluctant to join the CwA, which despite being



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launched some five years ago, has had very limited impact in addressing the continent's investment needs. Part of the challenge pertains to the so-called country-specific reform agenda of the CwA, which is seen by African countries as an intrusive mechanism.

India's Presidency and the G20 Development Agenda

India and Africa have a shared history spanning several centuries of robust economic, trade, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. In more recent times, India was one of the chief architects of the first Asia-Africa Conference, held in Bandung, Indonesia, in April 1955. It was at Bandung that the foundations of South-South solidarity and cooperation were firmly laid. Since its independence in 1947, development diplomacy has become an integral part of India's foreign policy. Over the years, India has strengthened its historical ties with Africa through a network of bilateral, trilateral and multilateral engagements. The India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) is now an established and important platform in advancing India-Africa relations.

Through its bilateral engagements with Africa, including the AU Commission in Addis Ababa, as well as the IAFS, India has a vibrant and multifaceted development cooperation engagement with Africa, through Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ten-Point Plan that is aligned with the AU's Agenda 2063. It is within this prism that one must view India's G20 Presidency and its engagement with Africa. As a trusted time-honoured partner of Africa and a fellow developing country of the global South, there is an expectation that Africa's Development Agenda will be one of the priority focus areas of India's Presidency.

This sentiment was articulated by Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, addressing the Kigali Global Dialogue, held in Rwanda in

India's theme for its G20 Presidency, *Vasu Dhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future*, resonates with the African concept of Ubuntu: I am because you are; to be human is to recognise the humanity of others. It is these twin concepts which place the well-being of humanity at its centre that should underpin India-Africa cooperation and partnership within the G20 and beyond.

August 2022. He noted that India would embed the concerns of the developing world at the heart of the G20 Agenda. He further stated that the development concerns of Africa must form the bedrock of the G20 consensus. He also highlighted that India and African nations collectively had the highest percentage of young populations in the world. This demographic dividend needs to be leveraged responsibly to ensure that it achieves its highest potential.

India's commitment and solidarity with Africa was sharply demonstrated at the height of the pandemic through its Vaccine Maitri initiative. While most of the developed world was focussed on ensuring vaccines for its own citizens, which led to many of these countries being accused of vaccine nationalism and vaccine hoarding, India made available vaccines for free or at a marginal cost to the developing world, including Africa.

India's theme for its G20 Presidency, *Vasu Dhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future*, resonates with the African concept of Ubuntu: I am because you are, to be human is to recognise the humanity of others. It is these twin concepts which place the well-being of humanity at its centre that should underpin India-Africa cooperation and partnership within the G20 and beyond.

The priorities identified by India for its Presidency cover the key issues needing global attention and collaboration. These include issues which will also be transformational to Africa, namely health, agriculture, education, digitalisation, climate financing, food security, disaster risk reduction and multilateral reforms.

Conclusion

India's Presidency of the G20 will be viewed as an important opportunity to ensure that development is brought back to the centre of the G20 Agenda. Given India's longstanding commitment in advancing the interests of the global South in the international arena, India as an emerging global power, is well-placed in ensuring the core interests of the developing world, including Africa, is mainstreamed during its Presidency. Africa will look to India to ensure that its socio-economic regeneration as articulated in Agenda 2063 receives the attention it warrants within the G20 under India's stewardship. India's G20 Presidency provides a strategic opportunity to reenergise and deepen the historic India-Africa partnership underpinned by the joint desire to create a more inclusive and better world for all: One Earth, One Family, One Future. 🌍

India and Africa have a shared history spanning several centuries of robust economic, trade, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.



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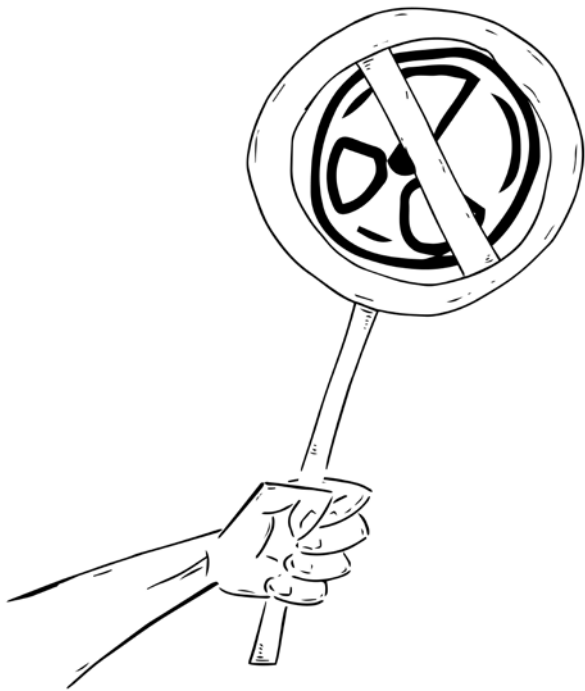
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Africa and the UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty: An example to emulate

African countries more widely are strong supporters of the TPNW because they know it provides a clear roadmap to building international peace and security through worldwide nuclear disarmament.

By the Chief Directorate UN: Political, Peace and Security
Department of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa has been an example to the world on nuclear disarmament. It became the first country ever to eliminate its nuclear weapons towards the end of the Cold War and, in more recent times, it took an active part in the United Nations (UN) negotiations in 2017 to establish the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and subsequently ratified it in 2019.

African countries more widely are strong supporters of the TPNW because they know it provides a clear roadmap to building international peace and security through worldwide nuclear disarmament.

The treaty bans countries from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed in their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in these activities.

The support across the African continent for the TPNW has built on the collective leadership African countries had already shown with the adoption of the Treaty of Pelindaba – the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty – which entered into force in 2009 and now has 43 state parties.

The countries in the rest of the world, which have opposed the TPNW or are still considering whether to sign, urgently need to follow the example of African countries because the risk of nuclear war is the gravest it has been since the early 1980s.

In January 2023, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* moved the Doomsday Clock the closest it has ever been to midnight. The clock assesses the existential threats to humanity posed primarily by nuclear weapons. This year's change was made mainly in response to the thinly veiled nuclear threats in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the increase in tensions between North Korea, South Korea and the United States over North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them.

At this moment of elevated risk, when the world faces the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used for the first time since 1945, African countries are again showing leadership by acting to ensure the taboo against nuclear weapons is strengthened and are using their influence to lead on nuclear disarmament.

The role of African states was informed by the declaration of the Organisation of African Unity

as far back as 1964 for the denuclearisation of Africa, and the establishment of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Pelindaba Treaty, adopted in 1997.

The TPNW and the Pelindaba Treaty provide for the prohibition of nuclear weapons on the African continent while supporting the continued use of nuclear technologies for peaceful uses that contribute to socio-economic development.

At the end of January 2023, South Africa hosted a meeting of 37 countries from across the continent to discuss how to get every African state to sign and ratify the TPNW. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) co-hosted the meeting to encourage the countries yet to sign the treaty, some of which were at the meeting, to make it a priority.

The countries in the rest of the world, which have opposed the TPNW or are still considering whether to sign, urgently need to follow the example of African countries because the risk of nuclear war is the gravest it has been since the early 1980s.



At this moment of elevated risk, when the world faces the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used for the first time since 1945, African countries are again showing leadership by acting to ensure the taboo against nuclear weapons is strengthened and are using their influence to lead on nuclear disarmament.

The Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Alvin Botes, opened the African Regional Seminar on the Universalisation of the TPNW in Pretoria on 30 January 2023.

Deputy Minister Botes noted that the TPNW was a landmark agreement in the history of

nuclear disarmament and represented the desire for member states of the UN to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

He further noted that the TPNW intended to further stigmatise and delegitimise nuclear weapons based on the adverse and indefensible humanitarian consequences of

their use and that the treaty emphasises the humanitarian consequences of the use of such weapons.

Deputy Minister Botes also recalled that African states played a critical role during the open-ended working group on nuclear disarmament that culminated in the negotiation



and adoption of the TPNW by the vast majority of UN member states in July 2017.

The African Regional Seminar took stock of the TPNW from a regional perspective and considered the need for further progress towards universalisation of the treaty on the continent.

This will entail raising awareness about the TPNW, its importance for African states, its place in the global and regional peace and security architecture as well as to highlight discussions about the risks posed by nuclear weapons and their catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

Universalisation of the TPNW maximises the authority of the treaty, strengthens its core norms and principles and underscores the delegitimisation of nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence.

Deputy Minister Botes stressed during the seminar that: "For a majority of non-nuclear armed states, especially African states, the risks of the use of nuclear weapons and the scale of the humanitarian consequences that would follow, make nuclear disarmament an urgent priority. South Africa's own experience has shown that neither the possession nor the pursuit of nuclear weapons can enhance international peace and security."

According to Deputy Minister Botes, the continued retention of nuclear weapons based on the perceived security interests of some states came at the expense of the rest of humanity.

He said South Africa's commitment to disarmament was based on the belief that international peace and security could not

"For a majority of non-nuclear armed states, especially African states, the risks of the use of nuclear weapons and the scale of the humanitarian consequences that would follow, make nuclear disarmament an urgent priority. South Africa's own experience has shown that neither the possession nor the pursuit of nuclear weapons can enhance international peace and security."

be divorced from development. "South Africa continues to play a leading role in organising the implementation of the treaty and calls upon African states to sign and ratify the TPNW at the earliest possible opportunity and thus reasserts Africa's leadership in nuclear disarmament and contributing to international peace and security," he added.

The Executive Director of ICAN, Beatrice Fihn, indicated that by coming to Pretoria for this meeting, the states were reinforcing their commitment to a world without nuclear weapons and providing needed leadership on nuclear disarmament at a time when, for the first time in many years, we are faced with the very real and deeply concerning possibility of a nuclear weapon being used in conflict.

Head of the Pretoria Delegation of the ICRC, Jules Amoti, defined nuclear weapons as being one of the biggest threats to humanity.

"Their catastrophic humanitarian consequences for all life on our planet are today well-known, and so are the immense

risks their continued existence entails. The complete elimination of nuclear weapons is an urgent humanitarian imperative and for all those states that are party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, it is also a legal duty," he added.

By January 2023, 33 African UN member states out of 54 had signed the TPNW and 15 had ratified it. However, the TPNW enjoys strong support from all the countries in the region. This was reflected during the seminar where participants highlighted that African countries had been leaders on nuclear disarmament and resolved to increase membership of the treaty.

Later this year, African states will have another opportunity to provide global leadership in nuclear disarmament when the second meeting of the state parties to the TPNW takes place at the UN in New York, by which time we look forward to having seen more African states sign and ratify the treaty. ¹³



ICAN



The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a broad, inclusive campaign, focussed on mobilising civil society around the world to support the specific objective of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons. The ICAN international structure consists of partner organisations, an international steering group and an international staff team.

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was presented to ICAN at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on 10 December that year, in recognition of its work "to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons" and its "ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons".

MAKING WINE BETTER

The indigenous /Xam San people of southern Africa were the world's first environmentalists. They regulated their behaviour in harmony with plant and animal cycles, the movements of the stars and climatic phenomena.

They saw land as a source of life - a gift to mankind that nourishes, supports and teaches. In this tradition, South African producers have recognised that they now also have a responsibility to farm sustainably and act as custodians of the land, in order to preserve it for the use of our future generations.

About 95% of our wine is produced in the area known as the Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK).

One of six such plant kingdoms in the world, it is the smallest, yet richest, home to over 9 600 plant species, more than in the entire northern hemisphere. The CFK is one of 36 recognised biodiversity hotspots, with 70% of the plants found here not found anywhere else on earth.

Sustainable Wine South Africa (SWSA) is the alliance between the Wine and Spirit Board (WSB), the Integrated Production of Wine (IPW) scheme and Wines of South Africa (WoSA). Together these organisations are driving the South African wine industry's commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly production.

LEADING THE WORLD IN PRODUCTION INTEGRITY

For over two decades there has been a strong focus on sustainability in the South African wine industry. The WSB, which administers the Wine of Origin (WO) scheme, also administers a scheme known as IPW, which was introduced in 1998.

Producers farm according to independently audited IPW guidelines to prevent further loss of habitat. These guidelines cover minimising the use of sprays, monitoring water usage and recycling the maximum water possible, as well as protecting the natural habitat. These guidelines are constantly improved and independent auditors audit the farms and cellars.



In 2010, South Africa launched the world's first industry-wide sustainability seal. Issued by the WSB, it guarantees a certified wine's environmental credentials according to measurable, auditable criteria. It also makes it possible for consumers to verify information simply by entering each seal's unique number on the SWSA website. Today, some 94.3% of wines certified in accordance with the WO scheme are meeting the requirements to carry the sustainability seal.



BRICS collaboration helps find solutions for challenges facing the global South

South Africa is committed to building a partnership between BRICS and Africa to unlock mutually beneficial opportunities for increased trade, investment and infrastructure development.

By Dr GNM Pandor

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

South Africa has taken up the Chair of the BRICS grouping at a time of momentous shifts in global geopolitics. BRICS – the group of leading emerging markets and developing countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – is eager to find solutions to the myriad of challenges that face the developing world.

Together, we have forged a comprehensive strategic partnership that seeks to unlock funding to address immediate imperatives such as building infrastructure, growing regional value chains and localising production.

The grouping has already made great strides in opening doors to significantly higher levels of trade and investment within the global South

For South Africa, the benefits of BRICS membership are undeniable. Total South African trade with BRICS increased from R487 billion in 2017 to R702 billion in 2021. The New Development Bank (NDB) has to date approved 11 projects in South Africa valued at around US\$5.4 billion to improve service delivery in critical areas.

Such access to finance is in keeping with our National Interest of urgently addressing the triple challenges of poverty, underdevelopment and unemployment in our country.

While the economic agenda is at the heart of the BRICS partnership, the core members are also committed to a transformative agenda that seeks to realise a more equitable, balanced and representative global governance system.

There is an urgent need to strengthen multilateralism, including working towards real reform of the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organisation. While multilateral cooperation in the post-World War II era has been imperfect, it has averted direct military conflict between major powers and spurred nations to recognise and take joint action to address international sustainable development and human rights challenges.

Unfortunately, a steady erosion of trust and competition between states has weakened the ability of the international community to work together to address shared challenges.

The obstacles we are facing include growing unilateralism, geopolitical rivalries, violations of international law and the application of double standards. There has also been a proliferation of alternate fora outside of established multilateral processes where decisions are taken by the few, thereby disenfranchising the many.

Multilateralism – the notion of collective solutions – must be at the heart of the engagement between member states. The UN must remain the centrepiece of multilateralism and be modernised to make it fit-for-purpose and more effective, forward-looking, inclusive and representative of current geopolitical relations.

The rising importance of the BRICS, a collective of the global South, is increasingly evident. According to *Megh Updates*, one of the world's largest international online platforms, BRICS has officially overtaken the G7 in global gross domestic product (GDP) and the trend is set to continue. The five core members of BRICS contribute 31.5%

of global GDP, while the G7 contributes 30%. BRICS is expected to contribute over 50% of global GDP by 2030, and this may happen even sooner with enlargement of the grouping.

There has been growing interest by members of the international community to join BRICS, moving us closer to a multipolar world order. In a vote of confidence that BRICS has stayed true to its core values of taking care of the interests of the global South, at least 12 countries have written to South Africa expressing an interest in joining BRICS, and this year's discussions will hopefully take this matter forward.

The BRICS NDB has welcomed Bangladesh, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates as members, and Uruguay is expected to deposit its instruments of accession. The NDB is positioned as a preferred global financing mechanism for emerging markets and developing countries.

The NDB supports the development of financial markets in member states and aims to provide financing in both local and hard currencies. The NDB has an AA+ credit rating and plays a role in providing financial support to build infrastructure, ensure sustainable development and enhance equity in power-sharing. The NDB has to date approved 80 investment projects in all member countries for a total amount exceeding US\$30 billion.

In South Africa, the NDB approved the financing of a US\$180-million project that will add 1 000 MVA transmission transformer capacity and 352.5 km of transmission lines. In India, construction works financed by the NDB have rebuilt or upgraded about 1,215 km of

road length, benefitting 917 villages. In Brazil, NDB loans have financed double-tracking and the remodelling of the Carajas Railway and the expansion of the Ponta da Madeira Port Terminal.

BRICS members are keen to see the restructuring of the global financial architecture and will further explore the option of trading in our local currencies and developing an alternative to the Swift banking system.

South Africa consistently uses its membership of key global multilateral bodies to advance the African Union's African Agenda and key interests of the continent. Thus, the theme we chose for chairing BRICS this year is: *BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism*.

It is our firm belief that there are immense opportunities for BRICS to participate in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by locating production and service activities on the continent and partnering with local companies and entrepreneurs.

The AfCFTA is an ambitious economic initiative of the AU that seeks to address the challenge of Africa's low level of participation in the global economy and world trade (which stands at 3%) relative to its population (around 17% of the world population).

For South Africa, the benefits of BRICS membership are undeniable. Total South African trade with BRICS increased from R487 billion in 2017 to R702 billion in 2021. The New Development Bank (NDB) has to date approved 11 projects in South Africa valued at around US\$5.4 billion to improve service delivery in critical areas.

It is the flagship project of the AU's Agenda 2063, which aims to build an integrated African market of over one billion people with a combined GDP of approximately US\$3.3 trillion. The AfCFTA is anchored on the development integration approach using market integration, infrastructure development and industrial development to boost intra-Africa trade and sustainable economic growth.

The AfCFTA is expected to stimulate Africa's industrial development and employment. The successful implementation of AfCFTA is expected to lead to the diversification of exports, increased productive capacity, entrepreneurial opportunities, technology transfer, employment opportunities, broadening economic inclusion and acceleration of growth.

South Africa is committed to building a partnership between BRICS and Africa to unlock mutually beneficial opportunities for increased trade, investment and infrastructure development. It is for this reason that we have invited the chairs of the African regional economic communities as well as the Chair of the AU to attend the BRICS Summit.

There is a great deal that we can accomplish as BRICS to the benefit of the African continent and the global South. It is time to capitalise on the immense trade and investment opportunities that exist in emerging markets and work towards making our economies more self-reliant and prosperous for the good of our people. 🇿🇦

It is our firm belief that there are immense opportunities for BRICS to participate in the African Continental Free Trade Area by locating production and service activities on the continent and partnering with local companies and entrepreneurs.





High Seas Treaty needs African support to work

Africa already shows innovation and leadership in ocean conservation, and countries must now push for early ratification.

By Timothy Walker, Project Leader and Senior Researcher, Maritime; Dhesigen Naidoo, Senior Research Associate, Climate Change; and David Willima, Research Officer, Maritime, Institute for Security Studies

After nearly two decades of negotiations, consensus has finally been reached at the United Nations (UN) to protect marine biodiversity in the High Seas. On 3 March 2023, President of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Rena Lee, declared: “The ship has reached the shore”.

The High Seas, or Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, are the international waters outside any country’s 200 nautical miles (322 km) exclusive economic zone. States have exclusive jurisdiction over marine resources in this zone. However, managing the waters beyond has become an increasing cause for concern as human activities such as illegal fishing and chemical pollution persist in the absence of legal regulation.

The High Seas make up 60% of the world’s oceans and cover nearly half the Earth’s surface. However, only about 1% of these waters are under legal protection. This part of the ocean is considered pristine due to its remoteness. But, conservation scientists argue that only 13% of these waters are “marine wilderness” – areas free from human impacts. This is due to human stressors such as global shipping and overfishing, which threaten biodiversity.

The effects of human activities on ocean health are exacerbated by climate change. The ocean is both a major player in the climate cycle and also highly impacted by greenhouse gas emissions-induced global

heating. It is an effective carbon sink, but increased greenhouse gas makes it difficult for the ocean to prevent global temperature rise.

The sea also absorbs almost 90% of the atmosphere’s heat. The resultant rise in sea temperature supports higher-frequency and more intense storm events, increasingly seen in southern Africa. The concomitant ocean acidification potentially compromises marine resources – both living and mineral. And rising sea levels are worrying for coastal communities and island states.

Considering the impact of human activities, scarcity of marine resources, higher weather risk environments and maritime crime, a rules-based environment of the High Seas – as heralded by the new agreement – has much promise.

The High Seas Treaty demonstrates a shift in thinking from what has long characterised international law through the *mare liberum* (free seas) concept. The notion of “free seas” suggested their availability for unregulated exploitation. The treaty shows that countries now recognise the need for cooperation to protect the “common heritage of humankind”, as stipulated in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Advocate Thembile Joyini – legal adviser in South Africa’s International Relations and Cooperation Department and a member of the African group of negotiators for the High Seas Treaty – told *ISS Today*: “South Africa and the African group were, from day one, of the view that the common heritage of mankind must be in the new instrument, and

this has happened. We therefore welcome the inclusion of the common heritage of mankind as the guiding principle for the interpretation and application of the [treaty].”

Delegates from 160 countries agreed on a framework that includes creating a network of marine protected areas in the High Seas and impact assessments to ensure the responsible use of marine resources. It also included mechanisms for equitable resource-sharing. If implemented, the treaty will be pivotal to achieving the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which pledges to protect 30% of the land and sea habitats by 2030.

At a time when world leaders appear divided on many issues, agreement on the High Seas Treaty is a rare triumph for multilateralism. It is an opportunity for cooperation between countries to play a crucial role in ocean governance.

Africa is disproportionately affected by illicit maritime activities linked to environmental crime, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and other issues rife in the High Seas. Countries on the continent must play a leading role in ensuring that the High Seas Treaty agreement comes into force.

With 54 African states represented at the UN, the continent is the world’s largest regional voting bloc and has an important legacy of leadership on ocean governance. The exclusive economic zone concept was a result of contributions from Kenyan legal scholars Frank Xavier Njenga and Andronico Adede. The concept gives coastal states sovereign rights over their waters and the

At a time when world leaders appear divided on many issues, agreement on the High Seas Treaty is a rare triumph for multilateralism. It is an opportunity for cooperation between countries to play a crucial role in ocean governance.

seabed within its zone to ensure equitable access and resource-sharing by all states.

Newly independent African countries played an integral part in negotiations on the UN law of the sea convention between 1973 and 1982 by sponsoring a resolution to establish a standing committee to study the fair use of High Seas' ocean resources. Twenty-six African countries representing 48% of the total votes ratified the convention by 1992, bringing it into force and demonstrating strength in numbers.

Celebrating the proverbial ship reaching the shore is a landmark achievement, but the ship hasn't yet docked. Urgent action is still needed. Sixty ratifications are required for the agreement to enter into force, and the

longer that takes, the greater the potential for irreversible marine biodiversity degradation.

The African Union (AU) has an essential role in building consensus among African countries on ratifying the agreement. The African group of negotiators for the High Seas Treaty is well-versed in such negotiations. Joyini noted, "The African group negotiated as a group, and the unity within the group was amazing."

The AU must build on this momentum by encouraging member states to sign and ratify the treaty. This advocacy should be merged with continued calls to ratify Africa's maritime governance frameworks, including the Revised African Maritime Transport Charter and the African Charter on Maritime Security,

Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter).

The slow commitment to both charters is worrying, but the swift ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and the strength of the African group mean prospects are good.

Africa already shows innovation and leadership in ocean conservation. African-led initiatives such as the Great Blue Wall can create interconnected, protected seascapes through international cooperation and protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030, while empowering local communities through fair, inclusive and participatory governance. ¹³

The African Union has an essential role in building consensus among African countries on ratifying the agreement. The African group of negotiators for the High Seas Treaty is well-versed in such negotiations. Joyini noted, "The African group negotiated as a group, and the unity within the group was amazing."



Promoting investment to power Africa's single market

Regional investment initiatives have existed in Africa for some time and provide valuable lessons for the AfCFTA.

By Teniola Tayo
 Institute for Security Studies Consultant and Principal Adviser, Aloinett Adviser

The landmark African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to increase Africans' prosperity through more intra-African trade by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers. There is, however, the question of the production of the goods and services that will be traded.

Scaling up production will require an injection of local and foreign investment into African industries. The increased focus on investment is a logical next step in the AfCFTA's implementation process.

In February, a draft protocol on AfCFTA investment was submitted to the African Union Heads of State Summit. The protocol is part of the second phase of the free trade area negotiations. It aims to facilitate and protect intra-African investment and improve the attractiveness of the single market to foreign direct investment.

Among other things, the draft protocol provides for a Pan-African Investment Agency to help coordinate investment promotion by AfCFTA member states. To ensure its success, lessons from previous attempts must be examined.

Linked to the goal of scaling up African industries is a recognition of the role of regional value chains in a free trade area. The AfCFTA Secretariat has identified some key value chains to prioritise for their export potential. These include automotives, textiles and apparel, pharmaceuticals and cocoa, among others.

These regional networks are one of the solutions to the anticipated competition among AfCFTA member states in developing specific sectors. The clashes between national industrial policies and the AfCFTA's aspirations are already proving a challenge to the negotiations.



Given that regional value chains may require cross-border investment, a coordinated approach is ideal. Such regional investment promotion activities are often carried out by investment agencies and have existed in Africa for some time.

Some initiatives were started by regional blocs and national governments, others by international organisations. They have taken the form of policies, networks, fora or actual agencies.

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) launched the COMESA Regional Investment Agency in 2006. Beyond promoting the region, the agency aimed to strengthen the capacity of national investment promotion agencies within its jurisdiction. However, it has faced some challenges, including a lack of political credibility and resources.

At national level, the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission embarked on the National Investment Certification Programme for States in 2016. To ensure the investment readiness of the country's states, the project provided capacity-building to help get states' investment-promotion structures certified.

One challenge was the varying levels of capacity within the states as well as

their differentiated investment promotion mechanisms. There have been recent attempts to relaunch the programme.

A third initiative is the Africa Investment Promotion Agency Network (AfrIPANet), initiated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in 2001. AfrIPANet was designed as a common platform to discuss and design investment promotion strategies and recorded some achievements. Although AfrIPANet appears to be on hold, UNIDO continues to support African investment promotion agencies through its Invest-in-ACP initiative – a cloud-based, digital platform.

The Economic Community of West African States created a Regional Investment Policy Framework in 2007 but assessing how much has been achieved is difficult. The East African Community has a Business and Investment Forum, and the African Development Bank has the Africa Investment Forum, which is held every year.


Major challenges facing all these initiatives are their sustainability and difficulty measuring their impact. Mobilising resources to keep them effective becomes more complex over time, especially when they are tied to specific donor projects with limited funding cycles.

Aside from the varying capacities of investment promotion agencies, there is also the challenge of varying political will across the blocs to implement needed reforms. The proposed Pan-African Investment Agency will be established within the same tricky ecosystem with bureaucratic hurdles, insufficient political will and funding constraints.

To maximise the agency's potential, it must be set up to cooperate with existing regional and national investment promotion agencies to avoid duplication and leverage resources more efficiently. A monitoring and evaluation framework will be needed to track progress and identify areas for improvement.

A gradualist approach should also be considered, where an investment promotion unit is created within the AfCFTA Secretariat ahead of a full agency. This could improve agility and allow an interactive approach to coordinating investment promotion efforts.

Digital platforms are vital for streamlining access to investment-related information and promoting transparency. By developing a digital platform, the Pan-African Investment Agency can centralise data and facilitate information-sharing among stakeholders. It can also enable transnational collaboration among national investment promotion agencies by designating focal points in each AfCFTA member state.

Coordinating investment promotion among the AfCFTA's 54 member states won't be easy. But doing so, is crucial to resolving the clashes between the free trade deal's continental aspirations and member states' national policies and realities. Knowledge accumulated from initiatives in and outside the continent must be examined to improve the chances of success. 

Given that regional value chains may require cross-border investment, a coordinated approach is ideal. Such regional investment promotion activities are often carried out by investment agencies and have existed in Africa for some time.







Flower season is one of the most stunning periods in the Northern and Western Cape, as flowers bloom in thick carpets in a rainbow of colour from August to late September.



LIBERATION HERITAGE:

Frene Ginwala remembered

Trailblazing feminist and first Speaker of South Africa's democratic Parliament

Ginwala's work in creating a politically effective ANC in exile – arguably the most powerful exiled liberation movement in the world – was invaluable. She loved to point out the ANC had more missions abroad than the apartheid government had embassies.

By Shireen Hassim

Canada150 Research Chair in Gender and African Politics and Visiting Professor, WiSER Wits University, Carleton University

Frene Ginwala, feisty feminist, astute political tactician and committed cadre of South Africa's governing party, the African National Congress (ANC), died at the age of 90 in January 2023. In a country blessed with exceptional leaders, Ginwala must surely count among the best. Typically for her, but unusually for the ANC leadership, she was laid to rest in a private ceremony. While she was modest about her achievements, she has left an indelible mark on South Africa's Constitution and democratic institutions.

Frene Noshir Ginwala was born in 1932 in Johannesburg. Her Parsee grandparents immigrated from Mumbai in India in the 1800s and made a life for the family in Johannesburg. Ginwala left South Africa after high school, to pursue an LLB degree at the University of London. She qualified as a barrister at the Inner Temple. Around this time, her parents moved to Lourenço Marques (now Maputo) in Mozambique. She returned to South Africa after graduating and moved to Durban where her sister, a medical doctor, had settled.

Although she supported the ANC, she was not politically active in any significant way until 1960, when the Sharpeville Massacre set off a crisis for the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, both of which were banned and many of whose members went into exile. Ginwala's family links to east Africa suddenly became a valuable resource, as did her political obscurity.

Life in exile

She was asked by ANC leader Walter Sisulu to go to Mozambique to facilitate the exit of ANC members and supporters into exile. One of those exiles was Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC. Ginwala helped him get across the border into Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and into a safe house. It was the beginning of a long and important comradeship. Ginwala became assistant to Tambo, who went on to lead the exiled ANC for 30 years. She was instrumental in setting up the ANC office in Tanzania.

Ginwala's work in creating a politically effective ANC in exile – arguably the most powerful exiled liberation movement in the world – was invaluable. She loved to point out the ANC had more missions abroad than the apartheid government had embassies.

In the early 1960s, she created a newspaper, *Spearhead*, wrote articles for a variety of international media outlets, wrote speeches for Tambo and gave speeches herself. Her time in Tanzania was interrupted when she was suddenly banned by the Government of Tanzania for her critical commentary and she left for the United Kingdom (UK). President Julius Nyerere lifted her ban in 1967 and asked her to return to Dar es Salaam to establish a new national newspaper, *The Standard*.

But her independent and forthright views – a hallmark for all of her life – got her into hot water and once again she was banned. This time, she returned to the UK, where she

registered for a PhD at Oxford University. Her doctorate, awarded in 1976, was a sharp reading of the relationship between class, race and identity among Indian South Africans. She continued to build the ANC's external profile. Her writing on the South African situation was prodigious, well-informed and hard to ignore. She was soon sought-after by the United Nations to advise on peace-building globally.

Return from exile

When the ANC was unbanned in 1990, Ginwala returned after an absence of 31 years. She became the first Speaker in the National Assembly in 1994, creating the office as a democratic institution and ruling Parliament with a firm, authoritative and fair hand for a decade. Later, she was the prime mover behind the formation of the Pan-African Parliament and one of the most prominent supporters of the Jubilee 2000 Campaign, which successfully lobbied for the scrapping of the onerous debt incurred by the world's poorest countries. ▶▶

While she was modest about her achievements, she has left an indelible mark on South Africa's Constitution and democratic institutions.

Others will write about her many contributions to the ANC and her status within the liberation movement. My generation of feminists will remember her, above all, for her remarkable championing of the struggle against patriarchy. This began when she was in exile, when she worked with the ANC Women's Section to ensure that ANC principles included non-sexism. It was a long and conflictual process, but by the mid-1980s, all ANC documents carried the commitment to a "non-racial, non-sexist democracy". This was so much more than a linguistic shift; it enabled feminists within the ANC to demand that the commitment be followed through in programmes and policies.

Ginwala was always somewhat impatient and to the left of the ANC Women's League. She feared that there was a conservative streak in the league that caved in to the patriarchal assumptions of the movement's leaders. She was worried this made it ineffective in pushing for gender equality. She worked from the side – cajoling comrades (ANC activists), and when that did not work, badgering them into action.

She set up the ANC's Emancipation Commission in 1991, dedicated to advancing gender equality and combatting sexism in the movement. Although not intended to compete with the Women's League, it did have strategic status that was ensured by placing it under the authority of then ANC president Tambo.

As Speaker of the National Assembly, she took responsibility for establishing training programmes for women parliamentarians, drawing on her vast global network for funding and educational materials.

It was a base from which Ginwala could drive the demand for gender equality unconstrained by the Women's League.

During the multiparty negotiations to end apartheid in the 1990s, when it became apparent that gender concerns would sink to the bottom of the ANC's list of priorities, she led the process of forming an independent women's organisation – the Women's National Coalition – that would unite women across political parties and ideological lines. She described it as a "conspiracy of women".

It was a remarkable body that coalesced around two key demands: the inclusion of women in all decision-making about the shape of the post-apartheid State and Constitution, and an end to violence against women.

Impatience and integrity

Ginwala understood power and politics better than most ANC leaders; her analysis of the balance of forces on any given issue was rapier-like. She knew that the transition process offered an opening to insert feminist

principles into the new State, but understood that the window of time was fleeting. This made her impatient at times with other feminist leaders who wanted to build the Women's National Coalition from the bottom up.

She was clear in her views and at times obstinate, but there was never any doubt about her integrity. Inevitably, there were bitter struggles over the pace of development of the flagship document of the Women's National Coalition, the Charter for Women's Equality.

Ginwala was concerned that the slow consultative processes preferred by the leaders of the charter process, Pregs Govender and Debbie Budlender, would mean the charter would not be ready to be included alongside the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, and that the moment for greatest impact would lapse without any long-term gains.

Although the charter was only adopted after the main constitutional debates were concluded, the Women's National Coalition ensured that gender equality was firmly embedded in the country's final 1996 Constitution.

The contestations that took place in the drafting of the charter about the meaning of gender equality offer a rich and long-lasting archival resource for political activists as well as researchers.

Ginwala was passionately concerned about economic transformation and set up numerous study sessions on issues such as unpaid care. She wrote a hard-hitting challenge to the 50 male economists who crafted the ANC's key economic policies as it took power. In conversations and seminars among feminists, she was insistent that political representation was only a lever for feminism, not its end goal.

As Speaker of the National Assembly, she took responsibility for establishing training programmes for women parliamentarians, drawing on her vast global network for funding and educational materials.

Hamba kahle, lala ngoxolo Comrade Frene. (Go well, rest in peace.)

"When great souls die, the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile. We breathe, briefly. Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity" – Maya Angelou. 🙏

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

"When great souls die, the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile. We breathe, briefly. Our eyes, briefly, see with a hurtful clarity." – Maya Angelou.





President Cyril Ramaphosa on Tuesday, 24 January 2022, delivered the eulogy at the Official Memorial Service for the late founding Speaker of the democratic Parliament, Dr Frene Ginwala.

Dr Ginwala passed away at her home in Cape Town on 12 January 2023, at the age of 90, following a stroke two weeks earlier.

The Official Memorial Service was held at the Johannesburg City Hall and served as a national tribute to the late Speaker.

Born on 25 April 1932, Frene Noshir Ginwala served the anti-apartheid struggle and South Africa's democratic dispensation in a diversity of roles as a lawyer, academic, political leader, activist and journalist.

In 2005, Dr Ginwala was honoured with the Order of Luthuli in Silver for her excellent contribution to the struggle against gender oppression and her tireless contribution to the struggle for a non-sexist, non-racial, just and democratic South Africa.

In his address, President Ramaphosa said:

"Frene lived, fought and strived as we all should – selflessly, honestly, courageously, driven by a deep and abiding love of humanity.

"She stood for a South Africa that was united in its diversity.

"She cherished a society where all may embrace and celebrate their many identities, many cultures, languages and faiths.

"She stood firm against the abuse of power and corruption.

"She stood firm against racism, sexism and all forms of intolerance and prejudice.

"She stood for human rights for all and the rule of law.

"To defend the aspirations of our Constitution is to honour the memory of Frene Ginwala.

"To lead lives of integrity, whether as citizens or leaders, is to uphold her legacy.

"Good thoughts, good words and good deeds.

"These are the tenets of the Zoroastrian faith into which Frene was born.

"She lived by them. Her life embodied them."



The empire sings back:

The deep history behind South African soprano Pretty Yende's triumph

Born into the oppressive legacy of colonialism and apartheid, she has adopted a Eurocentric art form and mastered it with skills honed by communal African tutelage. The result is a unique and resilient force.

By **Thembela Vokwana**
Lecturer, University of Fort Hare

Among the invited artists at the coronation of Britain's King Charles III was the South African soprano, Pretty Yende. Coronations are not events that take place often. What made the moment special is not just singing for a new king, but the rareness of the occasion. After millions of global television viewers experienced her soaring high notes, stage presence, musicality and star quality, audiences were no doubt asking, "Who is she, where does she come from?"

As a scholar of African opera with a particular research interest in various South African singers, including Pretty Yende – and what is sometimes called black vocality – I would like to present a slightly different history of her than most writers do. My interest here is showing Yende as a product of global histories and processes across time and space. That her singing is in fact embedded in the globalisation of the 1800s and its continuity to the 2000s. The varied and painful tapestry that ultimately led Yende back to Britain has a long historical basis.

My interest is to excavate Yende's vocal memory by looking at history and the community. Opera stardom did not surreptitiously land in her lap. Instead, home, church and school singing was foundational. For someone with no foundational classical education, to go on to sing in French, Italian and German (and speak these languages with ease) reveals how she has triumphed against the limitations of both empire and the legacy of apartheid's lack of opportunities for black South Africans.

Amakwaya

During the reign of Queen Victoria, in the early to mid-1800s, a group of British settlers entered the port of what became known as Port Elizabeth (now Gqeberha) in South Africa. As they gradually moved east, a small group of Scottish missionaries settled on the banks of the Tyhume River to establish what was eventually known as Lovedale College.

It was at Lovedale that most locals learned to read, write and – importantly for the discussion here – sing and compose by notating music. It was in the *Lovedale Press* that the country's first choral composition was published. This space formed the seeds of a choir singing tradition called *amakwaya*.

Many black South Africans owe their musical prowess to being part of a choir at school or in the community. The joy of singing came through preparing for competitions. Ever since the 1800s, choir competitions have pervaded various sectors of society – schools, churches, government departments. These have eliminations which culminate in national finals. These competitions were based on Welsh eisteddfods.

Over the years, there have been modifications to suit local needs and tastes

in the major national festivals. Uniquely for the late 1990s and early 2000s, opera arias, ensembles and choruses were prescribed in the repertoire.

Black communities in South Africa have no formal music tuition. Forms of training are relational, through singing with the family at home, and communal singing at school and church. This too is a product of historical processes. After colonialism, the white-minority apartheid government (1948 to 1994) provided a system of inferior education to black students who attended schools, which did not have the resources to provide quality music education, a legacy that continued into post-apartheid South Africa. Born in 1985, Yende began her schooling in the early 1990s, as a transition to democracy was taking place in the country.

Thousands of kilometres from Lovedale, in the small town of Piet Retief in the Mpumalanga province, Yende's musicality was incubated in her family's lounge. She sang with siblings, uncles and her grandmother, gogo KaDladla, who taught her choruses from a church-based form of music called *amakhorasi* that's accompanied by dancing and clapping of hands. She developed her voice there and at Ndlela High School, under the guidance of



Through sheer resilience and some good fortune, opera singers like Yende, Pumeza Matshikiza, Vuvu Mpofo, Musa Ngqungwana and Cecilia Masabane Rangwanasha made strides towards international stardom. None of them knew, as they joined a junior school choir, that they would become opera stars.

She has shattered all imaginable glass ceilings. And this at only 38 years old.

conductor Ndumiso Kwazikwenkosi Sithole, and in community choirs, particularly the Africa Sings Choir under George Mohlala.

Thus, although first hearing French composer Léo Delibes' *Flower Duet* sparked great awe and interest in a genre she hadn't known existed before – opera – she was already part of a grassroots network of music making before embarking on an opera path. In a newly democratic South Africa, Yende won the national schools championship singing Austrian composer Wolfgang Mozart's *Batti, Batti, O Bel Masetto*. She earned a platinum category result, which means she bagged 90-100%. It would be just one of several competition victories that left judges like choir conductor Themba Madlopa mesmerised by her talent.

It is again from the community music scene that Yende received opera assistance and coaching – from the likes of choral music champion and opera singer Nolufefe Mtshabe and leading choir competition organiser

Mzwandile Matthews. Yende finally benefitted from a formal music education when, thanks to her eisteddfod success, she was accepted into the University of Cape Town for a Diploma in Opera Studies in 2003.

Here, very much in brush strokes, I have tried to map the importance of *amakwaya* as an informal conservatoire for black South African opera singers. Through sheer resilience and some good fortune, opera singers like Yende, Pumeza Matshikiza, Vuvu Mpofo, Musa Ngqungwana and Cecilia Masabane Rangwanasha made strides towards international stardom. None of them knew, as they joined a junior school choir, that they would become opera stars.

The global stage

Amakwaya (choirs) are known for teaching discipline. It is discipline and fortitude that led Yende to graduate cum laude from the University of Cape Town. She would embark on a remarkable spree of winning just about any competition she participated in. In 2016, in the prestigious international Belvedere Singing Competition, she won a prize for each category and was named overall winner.

Her global career began with bel canto roles in the Italian opera style. Her scintillating

voice led her to all the major opera houses around the globe. She has performed with great artists such as Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli and performed many leading roles. She has won national orders in her home county, Italy, France and elsewhere. She has shattered all imaginable glass ceilings. And this at only 38 years old.

In 2022, Yende was invited to sing at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's 75th anniversary celebrations at Windsor Castle. Her inimitable style must have mesmerised King Charles, because he reportedly extended a personal invitation to perform at his coronation.

Yende sang *Sacred Fire* by environmentally conscious British composer Sarah Class. The creative forces of two award-winning female musicians was formidable. But Yende's path is particularly singular.

Her performance marked a historical moment. Born into the oppressive legacy of colonialism and apartheid, she has adopted a Eurocentric art form and mastered it with skills honed by communal African tutelage. The result is a unique and resilient force. As she ascends the stage, may her ancestors guide her to even greater heights.

Makube chosi, kube hele. (Everything that is said, let it manifest.)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



THE DAY THAT ROCK BEAT PAPER



On the 9th of August 1956, twenty thousand women of all races marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas Act, commonly known as the Pass Laws of 1950. The women stood together, arms raised

in the air in the clenched fist of the Congress Salute and sang 'You strike a woman, you strike a rock'. It is remembered as one of the major milestones in the struggle against the apartheid regime and the date is now commemorated as Women's Day.

Visit www.apartheidmuseum.org and learn more about our history.

APARTHEID MUSEUM



Ernest Cole

South Africa's most famous photobook has been republished after 55 years

Cole's book is a powerful reminder not only of what apartheid was, but of the work that remains to be done in order to dismantle the house of bondage.

By Kylie Thomas

Senior Researcher, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Photographer Ernest Cole was born in 1940 in the Pretoria township of Eersterust, just before apartheid was formally introduced in South Africa in 1948.

He was 20 when thousands of people gathered outside a police station in Sharpeville township to protest against being forced to carry pass books by the white minority government. On that day, at least 69 people were shot dead, hundreds were injured, and a state of emergency was declared. The Sharpeville Massacre is regarded as a turning point in the struggle for liberation in South Africa. It marked the beginning of a decades-long period in which images of human rights abuses in South Africa would rarely be out of the international news.

Cole's images were prominent in this coverage. But, unlike many of his contemporaries, he did not focus on documenting protests.

Instead, Cole produced hundreds of photographs that portrayed the structural violence of apartheid in fine detail. He aimed

to publish these images in a photobook that he intended to circulate internationally. In 1966, Cole left South Africa on an exit permit. He would never return.

House of Bondage, Cole's unflinching and comprehensive indictment of apartheid, was published in 1967 in the United States (US) and then in the United Kingdom. When it first appeared, the photobook was banned in South Africa but some of its images found their way back into the country through resistance publications.

The book is now widely available again, with a new edition on the market. It returns Cole's profound visual essay to the public eye and draws attention to his incisive critique of the violence of everyday life under apartheid.

A landmark book

After leaving South Africa, Cole continued to work as a photographer in the US and spent time in Sweden. By the 1980s, *House of Bondage* was out of print. The whereabouts of the photographs he produced in the US in the 1960s and 1970s – some commissioned by the Ford Foundation and the United States

Information Agency – remained unknown. Then, in 2017, at least part of his archive was located in Sweden and returned to Cole's family.

The resurfacing of more than 60 000 negatives as well as other documents, including notebooks, has led to the publication of the new edition of Cole's landmark book by the Aperture Foundation.

It includes three new introductory essays, but the core of the book remains unchanged; a deliberate, relentless journey through the broken world apartheid made. It's divided into 15 sections, including *The Mines*; *Police and Passes*; *Education for Servitude*; *Heirs of Poverty*; and *Banishment*, all seen through Cole's unblinking eye.

The new edition also contains a section of previously unpublished images that Cole appeared to have intended for *House of Bondage*, but may have been omitted in order not to detract from the work's primary message. This section, *Black Ingenuity*, includes 30 photos of musicians, dancers, artists and boxers. They convey how spaces of sociality and creativity were forged in spite of apartheid.

The homecoming

A selection of the material returned to the Cole family has been digitised and made available online by the Photography Legacy Project and the Historical Papers Research Archive.

Among Cole's hundreds of letters and press cuttings is a tattered notebook of handwritten observations about the hardships of black life under apartheid. In this small book, Cole chronicles the experiences of those he met during his quest to exhaustively document South Africa's dehumanising "crucible of racism".

Cole reveals himself to be a gifted journalist with a keen eye for the particular and the archive reveals the extensive research that went into making *House of Bondage*. His careful notes include the stories of mothers, workers and teachers ... How a young man lost his passbook and was too afraid to report it and so could not write his exams. Why there are no desks and chairs for the children at school. How a woman has only ever been able to buy a single skirt for herself during her entire working life.

Cole spent decades as a stateless person and, tormented by the racism he endured in

The resurfacing of more than 60 000 negatives as well as other documents, including notebooks, has led to the publication of the new edition of Cole's landmark book by the Aperture Foundation.

South Africa as well as in the US and Europe, suffered psychological breakdowns. From the mid-1970s, he was homeless and spent time living in the subways in New York and occasionally at a shelter or the houses of friends. He died of pancreatic cancer in exile in 1990.

A better world


In his essay in the new edition of *House of Bondage*, anti-apartheid activist and poet Mongane Wally Serote observes:

"No matter the very dire challenges of being poor, discriminated against, and being, by law, objects of exploitation and oppression, the people in the photographs by Ernest Cole claim life and living."

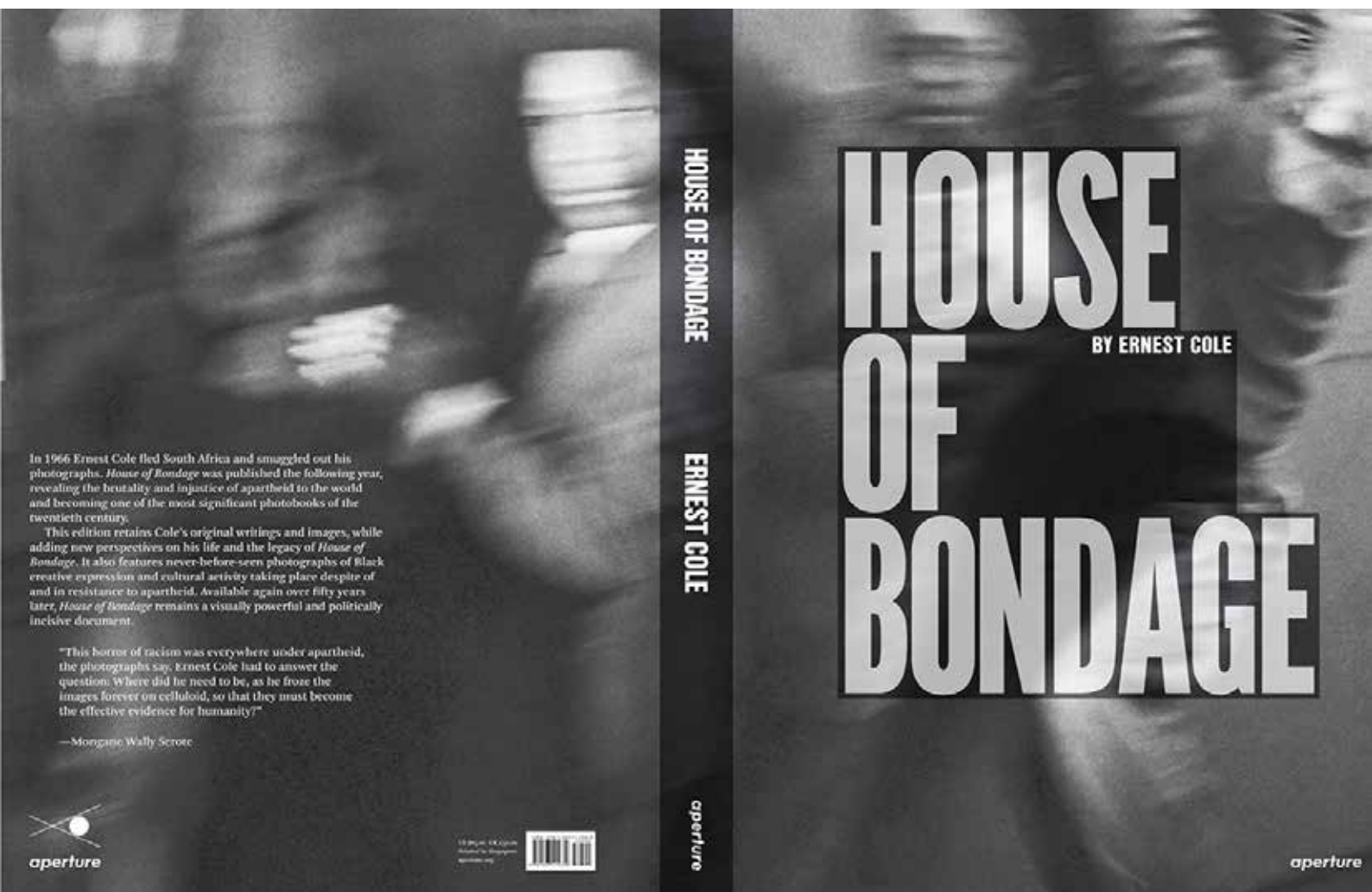
He cuts to the heart of Cole's project: the imperative to make a better world. He argues

that to see these images is not only to be reminded of the brutality of apartheid but to be shocked into recognising how the structural violence of the past lives on:

"Of course, the question which must follow after seeing the horror depicted in Cole's photographs is: why, why if there are human beings living in horror, have those conditions not been challenged and changed? Why, why are those conditions so persistent?"

At least part of the answer to Serote's lament lies in the fact that those responsible for engineering and implementing the iniquitous apartheid system have never been held to account. Cole's book is a powerful reminder not only of what apartheid was, but of the work that remains to be done in order to dismantle the house of bondage. 

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



In 1966 Ernest Cole fled South Africa and smuggled out his photographs. *House of Bondage* was published the following year, revealing the brutality and injustice of apartheid to the world and becoming one of the most significant photobooks of the twentieth century.

This edition retains Cole's original writings and images, while adding new perspectives on his life and the legacy of *House of Bondage*. It also features never-before-seen photographs of black creative expression and cultural activity taking place despite of and in resistance to apartheid. Available again over fifty years later, *House of Bondage* remains a visually powerful and politically inclusive document.

"This horror of racism was everywhere under apartheid, the photographs say. Ernest Cole had to answer the question: Where did he need to be, as he froze the images forever on celluloid, so that they must become the effective evidence for humanity?"

—Mongane Wally Serote



aperture

aperture



Africa's tourism sector is open and thriving

As Africans, together, we will craft a narrative that tells our story in our own words, sharing with the world the unique contributions we bring to the global tourism community.

By Patricia de Lille
Minister of Tourism

In May 2023, the City of Durban hosted the 2023 Africa Travel Indaba at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre, named after Africa's first Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, to celebrate Africa as we all pull our efforts towards our sector's recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

In one of his famous quotes, Inkosi Luthuli expressed his strong connection to Mother Africa, saying: "I am an African. I am bound to Africa by the ties of blood, race, history, culture and language."

During the month of May, we also celebrated Africa Month, honouring the African people's incredible ingenuity, fortitude and magnificence.

As Africans, together, we will craft a narrative that tells our story in our own words, sharing with the world the unique contributions we bring to the global tourism community.

A repositioned Africa's Travel Indaba

A lot has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we felt it necessary and critical to reposition Africa's Travel Indaba to ensure it remains relevant in the current environment.

This year, we hosted the Indaba under the mantra, *Shaping Africa's Tomorrow, Through Connection Today*. This positioning speaks to the essence of Africa's Travel Indaba, bringing the world to Africa to positively influence the continent's economic and cultural trajectories.

One of Africa's best exports, Ben Okri, the Nigerian author and poet, was on point when he wrote: "The most authentic thing about us, as Africans, is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love, and to be greater than our suffering."

The 2023 Africa's Travel Indaba, at near the pre-pandemic scale, demonstrated that we can host world-class safe events as Africans.

This year, we worked hard to exceed pre-COVID attendance numbers and have an estimated 6 000 people attending from all over South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world.

This year's Indaba saw more than 350 tourism products being showcased, 1 000

buyers from across the tourism ecosystem and just under 1 000 exhibitors.

The attendees included destination marketing bodies, hotel groups, airlines, tour operators and 10 African tourism boards and 21 African countries represented.

Competition and collaboration

Competition is often considered the lifeblood of destination marketing and tourism. However, it is important to note that competition should always be balanced with collaboration.

While healthy competition can drive growth and innovation, unhealthy competition can lead to a race to the bottom, with businesses and destinations undercutting each other on price and quality. Therefore, as the tourism industry, let us foster a culture of healthy competition, where businesses and destinations are encouraged to compete on quality and innovation.

This year's Indaba saw more than 350 tourism products being showcased, 1 000 buyers from across the tourism ecosystem and just under 1 000 exhibitors.

Long-term success in the industry depends not only on competing but also on recognising the value of collaboration and partnerships.

Each player in the value chain has a unique role to play, and by working together, we can create seamless and memorable travel experiences for visitors.

Supporting tourism enterprises

The Department of Tourism keenly understands the value of tourism businesses, especially small to medium enterprises and that is why I am proud of the investment we have made in this regard as part of our Market Access Support Programme (MASP), which, among others, supported 123 local small inbound tourism enterprises to showcase their products and services at the Hidden Gems pavilion during Africa's Travel Indaba.

The total value of support approved for the 123 enterprises amounted to R11.7 million and this investment enabled these small businesses to display their unique products and services, expand their networks and foster partnerships that will drive the growth and sustainability of the tourism industry in South Africa.

Africa's tourism sector performance

Africa's tourism sector is open and thriving, offering various products and experiences, catering to travellers' needs and preferences.

South Africa has seen encouraging growth in its tourist arrival numbers between January and December 2022, when it reached nearly 5.8 million with over four million of those arrivals from African countries.

This represents an overall inbound increase of 152.6% for South Africa compared to January to December 2021.

The future looks bright. We have, as a collective, weathered the COVID-19 hurricane and it should only propel us to exceed our targets.

After stronger than expected recovery in 2022, this year could see international tourist arrivals to South Africa return to pre-pandemic levels in Europe and the Middle East. These numbers demonstrate the immense potential of tourism in Africa, not only as a revenue generator but also as a job creator and a catalyst for faster economic growth.

At Africa's Travel Indaba, the African tourism sector worked together to create sustained growth and economic impact and it provided the ideal platform for us to collectively showcase our African products and experiences. The business opportunities and quality connections gained at this trade show will certainly shape Africa's tomorrow.

Challenges to overcome

In addition to collaboration across the value

chain, there are other areas where we need to work together to unlock the full potential of the African tourism sector.

One of these is the visa regime in all African countries.

We must have a harmonised visa regime across the continent to make it easier for visitors to move from one country to another.

We must also simplify the e-visa application process and reduce visa costs to make Africa a more attractive destination for both Africans and international travellers.

In this regard, South Africa has visa waivers for several African countries for a specified period and up to a maximum of 90 days, including Southern African Development Community countries such as Tanzania, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Mauritius, Malawi and Botswana.

We have also rolled out the e-visa system to several countries, including Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo and we are expanding the e-visa system to an additional 20 countries.

Another critical area is airlift capacity.

On the global stage, Africa is the strongest performer currently with international air connectivity in Africa.

However, this growth has been uneven, with some African regions and countries having better airlift connectivity than others.

I am looking forward to work with various partners in reducing the high cost of air travel in Africa as we know that this deters visitors and thereby limits tourism growth.

Despite some challenges, there are some positive developments in the African aviation sector.

For example, some African airlines are expanding their fleets and increasing their routes to meet the growing demand for air travel.

The African Union (AU) has also launched the Single African Air Transport Market, which aims to liberalise air transport on the continent and promote greater competition and connectivity.

Sustainable tourism

We must prioritise sustainable tourism practices that address climate change and protect our environment and cultural heritage while promoting economic development.

One of the key projects of the Department of Tourism is to help businesses mitigate climate change and adapt to energy constraints is the Green Tourism Incentive Programme (GTIP).

The programme encourages and incentivises private-sector tourism enterprises to move towards the installation of solutions for the sustainable management and usage

of electricity and water resources through the installation of solar system and water-saving technologies.

The GTIP also ensures an uninterrupted visitor experience for tourists, reduces operational input cost and facilitates increased competitiveness and operational sustainability in the tourism sector.

Apart from providing funding to 130 tourism businesses under this programme, the Department of Tourism also invested R98.5 million to retrofit eight state-owned tourist attractions. Combined savings for all eight sites were estimated to be just under R40 million by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

Sustainability is big for the tourism sector. We must invest in sustainable tourism to protect communities' natural resources, cultural heritage and social fabric while creating economic opportunities.

Again, collaboration and partnerships between African countries and the public and private sectors will be critical in achieving this objective.

We must also prioritise innovation and technology, which can help us develop and promote our tourism offerings more effectively and efficiently.

Finally, we must ensure that our efforts to promote the African tourism sector are inclusive and benefit all members of our society.

We must work to ensure that the benefits of tourism are distributed equitably and that all members of our communities can access the opportunities created by the sector.

At the very least, that is what the future generation of African children expect and deserve.

Our top-notch hospitality, favourable weather and unique wildlife are just a few examples of what makes Africa an attractive tourism destination.

Through tourism, we can help create cultural exchanges, promote understanding and break down stereotypes.

This can help to build bridges between different communities and contribute to the peaceful coexistence of different cultures and religions.

On a domestic front, South Africa must keep our country's domestic sectors going. Countries with a strong domestic tourism sector are generally better equipped to withstand fluctuations in international demand as has been witnessed with the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

For us in South Africa, growing our country's tourism sector is a key aspect of the country's Tourism Sector Recovery Plan and aims to ignite economic growth and create jobs.

It is possible. Let's do it together. 🇺🇸

New discovery: *Fossilised giant zebra tracks found in South Africa*

Being able to look back in time in this way doesn't just help scientists to better understand ancient landscapes. It's also an important part of understanding what's changed over time and the effects of climate change and humans.

By Charles Helm

Research Associate, African Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience, Nelson Mandela University

Tens of thousands of years ago, a huge horse species walked, trotted and galloped across the shifting sands of what is today South Africa's Cape south coast.

The Giant Cape Zebra (*Equus capensis*) weighed an estimated 450 kg. Its extant relatives in southern Africa are far smaller: the plains zebra weighs between 250 and 300 kg and the Cape mountain zebra is the smallest of all zebra species, with a mass of between 230 and 260 kg.

The Giant Cape Zebra became extinct just over 10 000 years ago. This may have been

partly because of the loss of its preferred habitat of extensive grasslands, as rising sea levels flooded the vast Palaeo-Agulhas Plain. But until now, it hasn't been clear how common the species was on the Cape south coast because its body fossils are predominantly from southern Africa's west coast.

That's where ichnology – the study of tracks and traces – comes in. Since 2007, our team has documented more than 350 fossil vertebrate track sites along a 350-km stretch of the Cape south coast.

Now, by studying the tracks left by those galloping, walking and trotting zebra so long

ago, we're able to say that they must have been a fairly regular sight on the landscape of the Cape south coast, and were more common than was suggested by the body fossil record in the area. This confirms the capacity of the body fossil record and ichnology to complement each other.

Being able to look back in time in this way doesn't just help scientists to better understand ancient landscapes. It's also an important part of understanding what's changed over time and the effects of climate change and humans.





The Giant Cape Zebra (*Equus capensis*) weighed an estimated 450 kg. Its extant relatives in southern Africa are far smaller: the plains zebra weighs between 250 and 300 kg and the Cape mountain zebra is the smallest of all zebra species, with a mass of between 230 and 260 kg.



Zebra crossings

In our recently published article, we described how we have identified 26 equid track sites – including tracks belonging to *Equus capensis* – in aeolianites (cemented dunes) on South Africa's Cape south coast in the vicinity of towns like Still Bay and Plettenberg Bay.

This is especially exciting because equid tracks dating to the Pleistocene epoch, which started 2.6 million years ago and ended about 11 700 years ago, are rare. In fact, our finds mean that the Cape south coast accounts for the majority of the sites known globally from this time period (other sites are in Kenya, Ethiopia, Italy, the Arabian Peninsula and the Americas).

Thirteen of the track sites we found contain tracks 12 cm or greater in length, and eight contain tracks 10 cm or less in length (in the remaining five cases, we could not access the tracks for measurement). Well-preserved equid tracks are fairly distinctive: features include an unbroken hoof wall and what is known as a “frog” towards the centre of the track.

We were able to attribute the large tracks to *Equus capensis*, and the small tracks

to the quagga (*Equus quagga quagga*), the plains zebra subspecies that became extinct in the 19th century.

One of the Giant Cape Zebra sites comprises a single trackway containing 12 tracks. Another contains two probable quagga trackways that intersect at right angles, respectively containing 10 and six tracks. We informally dubbed this the “zebra crossing”. Such long fossil equid trackways are especially rare, as equids are often gregarious (resulting in trampled areas) and isolated trackways are unusual.

One other African example of a long equid trackway is from Laetoli in Tanzania from the older Pliocene Epoch. Sadly, the finest such site was in Nevada in the United States, where a 50 000-year-old equid trackway contained 28 tracks – but it was covered in the 1930s during prison construction and is no longer accessible.

Through our Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating programme, we have established an age range for the equid track sites from about 161 000 years to about 43 000 years.

Looking back – and ahead

Identifying and reporting the tracks of the Giant Cape Zebra allow us not only to imagine its presence on the Cape south coast many thousands of years ago, but also reminds us of how extinction often follows in the wake of climate change. And it allows scientists like ourselves working in southern Africa to contribute substantially to a relatively sparse global record of such sites. 🐾

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

500-year-old horn container discovered in South Africa sheds light on pre-colonial Khoisan medicines



Several museums in South Africa house examples of medicine horns collected during the 19th and 20th centuries – but none has ever been found in an archaeological context.

By **Justin Bradfield**

Associate Professor, University of Johannesburg

In 2020, a chance discovery near the small South African hamlet of Misgund in the Eastern Cape unearthed an unusual parcel – a gift to science. The parcel turned out to be a 500-year-old cow horn, capped with a leather lid and carefully wrapped in grass and the leafy scales of a Bushman poison bulb (*Boophane disticha*). Inside the horn were the solidified remnants of a once-liquid substance.

Thanks to chemical analyses, we now know that the horn was a medicine container. It is the earliest known object of its kind from anywhere in southern Africa and offers the first insights into pre-colonial medicines in this part of the world.

My colleagues and I conducted chemical analyses of the contents. We identified several secondary plant metabolites, the most abundant of which were mono-methyl inositol and lupeol. Both of these compounds, and indeed all of those identified, have known medicinal properties.

Thanks to chemical analyses, we now know that the horn was a medicine container. It is the earliest known object of its kind from anywhere in southern Africa and offers the first insights into pre-colonial medicines in this part of the world.

This remarkable find is the oldest example in southern Africa, of which we are aware, of two or more plant ingredients being purposefully combined into a container to form a medicinal recipe. Several museums in South Africa house examples of medicine horns collected during the 19th and 20th centuries – but none has ever been found in an archaeological context.

Various plant uses

The medicine container was found in a painted rock shelter. A radio carbon date of the horn container places the parcel at around AD 1461-1630. Although the rock shelter contains several San paintings, we do not know if they are the same age as the horn container. At this time, the area was occupied by both San hunter-gatherers and Khoi pastoralists; both believed in a mythical animal, resembling a domestic cow, whose horns were considered to have medicinal attributes.

People have exploited the pharmacological properties of plants for at least the last 200 000 years. During the Middle Stone Age (which started about 300 000 years ago and ended between 50 000 and 20 000 years ago), people burnt certain aromatic leaves to fumigate their sleeping areas. Plant extracts also seem to have been the main component of glues and adhesives and hunting poisons around this time.

But not much is known about traditional medicines from the pre-colonial era of southern Africa. What information there is derives mainly from early traveller accounts and modern ethnographic studies. The horn offered us a chance to learn a little more about traditional knowledge of medicine and pharmacology during this early period.

Medical and spiritual applications

The main compounds present in the container, mono-methyl inositol and lupeol, are still found today in a variety of known medicinal plants in the Eastern Cape. They have a wide range of recorded medicinal applications, including the control of blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and treatment of fevers, inflammation and urinary tract infections. They can also be applied topically to treat infections – rubbing ointment into cuts in the skin is one of the

ways the San are known to have administered certain medicines.

Both mono-methyl inositol and lupeol are pharmacologically safe compounds. This means that they can be ingested without the risk of overdose. Both compounds stimulate the production of dopamine in the brain; mono-methyl inositol is used to treat anxiety, and plants containing lupeol are used as aphrodisiacs.

For the Khoi and San people, not all medicines were meant to treat physiological illnesses. Healers were specialised individuals whose task was to treat both physical and

spiritual ailments. Indeed, one of the principal functions of traditional medicine, both in the past and today, is to treat supernatural bewitchment. Medicine and culture remain intimately entwined and traditional medicine, which is highly adaptive, continues to play an important role in much of Africa as a primary health service.

A treasured possession

We cannot know exactly what the medicine stored in the horn was used for, how it was administered or who precisely used it. But, it

was clearly a treasured possession, judging by the way it was carefully wrapped and deposited in the rock shelter. Its owner evidently intended to retrieve it but never returned.

The absence of any evidence of long-term occupation of the shelter means that the medicine horn is an isolated, chance discovery. Nevertheless, this is a find that sheds new light on traditional medicines used in the Eastern Cape 500 years ago. [↗](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



Rock art as African history:

What religious images say about identity, survival and change

Rock art tells a tale of people meeting, negotiating, fighting, trading with and marrying one another. The tale is told not in simple narrative, but in spiritual beliefs.

By Sam Challis, Senior Researcher, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits);
and Brent Sinclair-Thomson, Support Staff, Wits

To “read” the history of times before writing, scholars have traditionally used excavated evidence. Remains like dwellings, burials and pots can reveal a lot about how people lived long ago. In southern Africa, there is another archive to “read” too: rock art. Rock art is primarily a record of spiritual beliefs – but also reflects the events that these beliefs made sense of.

Hunter-gatherers in the region, ancestors of today’s San or BaTwa, made rock art for thousands of years before African herders and farmers arrived from the north 2 000 years ago and European colonists followed by sea 350 years ago.

As a result of these contacts between groups of people, ethnic and economic boundaries became increasingly blurred. Rock art changed too, in technique and subject matter.

Rock art tells a tale of people meeting, negotiating, fighting, trading with and marrying one another. The tale is told not in simple narrative, but in spiritual beliefs. Our recent paper in *Current Anthropology* outlines the nature, scale and effects of contact between people in southern Africa, and the ways in which indigenous people produced images that engaged with change. It shows that contact and colonisation, in time, created a “disconnect” with the past that can be understood by looking at changes in rock art. The disconnect apparent in the rock art reflects

the disconnect in indigenous society more generally. It reveals the mixing and changing – and survival – of different people’s beliefs about the universe. It charts southern African history and, although it is “written” in terms of spiritual beliefs, it is the only record that shows what happened from the San perspective.

It often shows the struggle to resist subjugation, and it depicts beliefs about the forces that could be summoned to resist.

Shifts in rock art

What the San painted or engraved on rock was their vision of what happened in a trance state. The artists entered this trance state in order to establish connections with animals and spirits



in the landscape, to influence their movements and to derive the power to make rain and heal the sick.

Rock art was never unchanging, but new traditions and styles appeared when African farmers arrived in southern Africa from about 2 000 years ago, and when pastoralism was later introduced. Further changes came with the arrival of Khoe-speakers about 1 000 years ago. These Khoe-speaking herders were themselves descended from earlier mixing between hunter-gatherers and east African pastoralists.

Changes appeared in the rock art's content – for example, the animals and materials portrayed – and in the artistic techniques used.

Eland antelope (the one with the most spiritual power for the San) were once lovingly drafted and shaded. Later, they appeared in bright, chalky and vivid colours, rendered in a posterlike and blocky fashion. The drop in pigment quality was likely due to the breakdown of trade networks brought about by marginalisation, then slaughter of indigenous people, but still they called on the power of the eland to help them.

We see pictures of cattle and sheep appearing in rock art, and finger-painted and engraved patterns associated with girls' initiation, common to pastoralist and hunter-gatherer societies. The images show that people's identity (ethnicity) and the way they survived (economy) weren't divided into clear groups. Hunters were not necessarily all San, and all San were not necessarily hunters.



What the San painted or engraved on rock was their vision of what happened in a trance state. The artists entered this trance state in order to establish connections with animals and spirits in the landscape, to influence their movements and to derive the power to make rain and heal the sick.

The blurring of boundaries between groups increased with time.

As time went on, all these people became subject to extermination policy, slavery and marginalisation. But rather than being passive receptors of change, they used their religion, comprising multicultural beliefs, to survive. This can be seen in the rock art they created.

Spiritual concepts of water

Conceptions of the rain, in the form of images of water bulls and water snakes, are particularly useful for examining cross-cultural influences.

For African farmers, snakes were associated with water. Hunter-gatherers and herders with whom they came into contact acknowledged this because they, too, already had beliefs about water and the animal entities embodied by it.

People from different language groups may have gathered together for girls' initiation ceremonies at sites where the great water snake emerged. At these locations, this spiritual creature's body, the undulating rock, is covered with markings to appeal to it – the markings that also appear on the initiates' tattoos, face paint, clothing and bags.

The control of water, to make rain for pasture and crops, was traded (bartered for cattle) between groups, very likely for centuries. Rock

As time went on, all these people became subject to extermination policy, slavery and marginalisation. But rather than being passive receptors of change, they used their religion, comprising multicultural beliefs, to survive. This can be seen in the rock art they created.

art images of water snakes, water bulls and domestic cattle intertwine and superimpose one another; sometimes, water snakes have cattle horns. Often, water bulls or water snakes were depicted being killed to make their blood – the rain – fall.

Water was also extremely important to those wishing to combat the encroaching colonists. By this time, the people of southern Africa, regardless of background, held many beliefs in common. The people or entities that lived underwater could be called upon to influence situations: torrential rain to wash away the tracks of stolen animals, for example.

Raiding and escape

By the time colonists arrived, hunter-gatherers had sheep, and isiNtu-speakers (African farmers) had adopted aspects of hunter-gatherer beliefs, and vice versa.

San were increasingly marginalised from well-watered pasture suitable for domestic herds of African herders and farmers. Some became herders themselves, some mixed with farmers and some became raiders. Then, with the expansion of settler farms in the 18th century (which they also raided), they were decimated, hunted and enslaved.

In the rock art, baboons became a symbol of protective power to enable raiders to escape unharmed. The root of a powerful medicine, so-|oa or mabophe – closely associated with baboons – enabled stock thieves to pass unnoticed, and “turned bullets to water”. We see this in the paintings of people taking on the power and features of baboons, appearing alongside horses and cattle.

Horses, the magical vehicles of violence, passage and escape, were kept and cared for by their new owners – the raider groups. They painted themselves in scenes before, during and after raids, not as a diary entry but as part of the [ritual] of ensuring the outcome was favourable and the memory made positive.

We can now see changes in rock art, from “traditional” animals like rhebok and eland, to those showing rain bulls being killed, rain snakes captured, people with shields and spears, or riding horses alongside baboons, in a new light. 🐾

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



MeerKAT: Why South Africa's massive astronomy project matters

The existence of innovative science projects in South Africa, such as the MeerKAT, encourages and inspires young people to pursue careers in the sciences

By Daniel Steyn
GroundUp

“The work we do isn't science until it's shared with someone who isn't a scientist,” says Amish Patel, a Signal Processing Engineer with the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory. He is involved in the MeerKAT radio telescope.

Patel was speaking in February 2023 at the second in a series of Science for the People seminars hosted by GroundUp and Bertha House in Cape Town. His talk was titled: *Astronomy in South Africa and Why it Matters*.

The MeerKAT radio telescope project in the Karoo derived from the aspiration to have a South African Square Kilometre Array (SKA) precursor telescope. It has been operational since 2018 and consists of 64 dishes, each with a diameter of 13.5 metre. The MeerKAT telescope gathers huge amounts of data by receiving radio waves, and that data is used to better understand astronomical phenomena, light-years from our planet.

The SKA project is a multinational project to build a radio telescope consisting of multiple receivers in several countries. These receivers

will work together to gather data and produce, among other things, high-definition imagery of what's happening beyond our atmosphere. The SKA is being built in South Africa and Australia. The combined receivers (each a relatively small telescope) will comprise the single biggest telescope ever built, about one square kilometre, and be much more sensitive and faster than any other telescope in existence.

Given the myriad pressing challenges faced by people living in South Africa, it could be difficult to give much importance to the science of astronomy. “But astronomy matters in South Africa for several reasons,” Patel said.

“The existence of innovative science projects in South Africa, such as the MeerKAT, encourages and inspires young people to pursue careers in the sciences,” he said.

For a long time, South Africa has had a dearth of skills to run projects such as the MeerKAT. Many South Africans who did pursue related fields would often leave the country to work on international projects. “Ten years ago, we would have had to look outside the country for the right people,” Patel said.

But now, with the increase in cutting-edge astronomy in the country, things are starting to change. Patel said that during the six years he had been part of the project, the demographic of team members had become highly diverse.

“The project is more than the physical structure of the telescope,” Patel explained. “There is also the support infrastructure, and research and development that take place.”

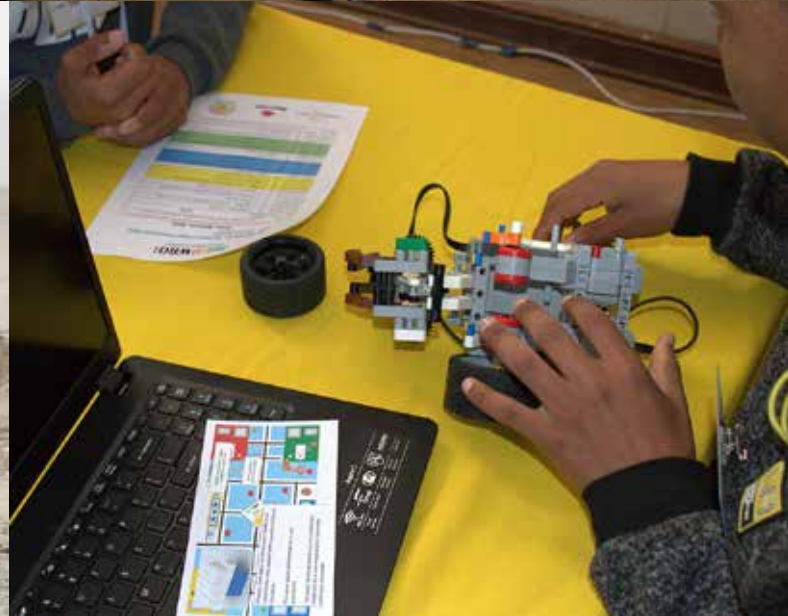
Communities living around the MeerKAT telescope have also benefitted from the deployment of tutors, education resources and learnerships.

Some of the innovative technology developed and used for the MeerKAT project has also been used in other applications, such as enhancing the processing capacity of personal computers. This means that South Africa is being recognised internationally not only as a place suitable for astronomical studies but also for technological innovation.

“The open desert of the Karoo region was the perfect place to build the Meerkat,” said Patel. It offers large pieces of unoccupied land and can easily be turned into a radio “quiet zone”, meaning there are no radio waves, cellphone signal or wireless connections that interfere with the radio waves from space being received by the telescopes. Even petrol-powered cars are banned because the spark plugs give off small amounts of radiation that interfere with the radio waves that the telescopes need to focus on.

“We had a big empty space in the middle of nowhere,” Patel said. And now with the Meerkat project, South Africa is able to gather and share novel data and information with scientists all around the world. 🌍

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Flying the FLAG

UN Secretary-General appoints Mojankunyane Gumbi of South Africa as Special Adviser for Addressing Racism in the Workplace



United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, António Guterres, recently announced the appointment of Mojankunyane Gumbi of South Africa as Special Adviser for Addressing Racism in the Workplace.

On behalf of the South African Government, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, congratulated Adv Gumbi on her appointment.

Minister Pandor said South Africa was extremely pleased that yet another South African had been appointed to such a prestigious role in the UN.

“This augurs well with my department’s strategy to encourage and get as many South Africans as possible to occupy strategic positions in multilateral organisations.” Minister Pandor added.

Minister Pandor wished Adv Gumbi well in her responsibilities.

The Special Adviser will provide strategic advice to the Secretary-General on addressing racism and racial discrimination, as well as oversee the implementation of the long-term Strategic Action Plan adopted by the organisation in 2022 to address racism in the workplace.

Following the adoption of the Strategic Action Plan, every Secretariat entity was asked to develop and implement its own action plan, while an Implementation Steering Group under the leadership and stewardship of the Special

Adviser will monitor and guide corporate-level actions to implement the Strategic Action Plan. An Anti-Racism Team has been established to support the Special Adviser.

Before her appointment, Adv Gumbi was Chancellor of the University of Venda, a position she was appointed to in 2020. She is the founder of Mojanku Gumbi Advisory Services, a Johannesburg-based business advisory firm. From 2018 to 2019, she served as Ombudsman at the University of Johannesburg. She was a Special Adviser to South African President Thabo Mbeki from 1999 to 2008. She was involved in peacemaking initiatives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Comoros, Sudan, Lesotho, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Iran and the Middle East. Prior to serving in The Presidency, she was an attorney from 1984 and an advocate from 1993.

Adv Gumbi holds Law degrees from the South African universities of the North (now University of Limpopo) and Witwatersrand, and a certificate in Trial Advocacy from the University of Texas in Austin.

Trevor Noah wins the Erasmus Prize, becoming the first comedian to do so in 60 years



Trevor Noah has become the first comedian in 60 years to be the recipient of the Erasmus Prize; the last comedian to receive the award was Charlie Chaplin.

The prize, which forms part of the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation, was founded by HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in 1958.

According to the foundation, Noah receives the prize for his inspired contribution to the 2023 theme *In Praise of Folly*, named after Dutch humanist scholar Desiderius Erasmus’ (1466 – 1536) most famous book, which is filled with humour, social criticism and political satire. Not only is Noah the first comedian in 60 years to receive this award, he is also the first South African to do so.

The foundation shared that Trevor Noah’s sharp-minded, mocking, yet inclusive political comedy, upholds the “Erasmian Spirit”. Noah made a name for himself, both locally and

internationally, for his take on politics and always points out the hilariously absurd intricacies of politics and politicians.

The Erasmus Prize is awarded annually to a person or institution that has made an exceptional contribution to the humanities, the social sciences or the arts in Europe and beyond. The award also consists of a cash prize of €150 000, which is around R3 million.

“Emphasising the importance of tolerance, cultural pluriformity and non-dogmatic critical thinking, the Foundation endeavours to express these values in the choice of its laureates. The Erasmus Prize is awarded by the Board of the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation. His Majesty the King is Patron of the Foundation.”

The official award ceremony will take place later this year. They announced Noah as the winner of this year’s prize in Amsterdam on 16 March 2023.

ewn.co.za

Richtersveld botanist scoops prestigious international award

Pietter van Wyk, the botanist at |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, has been announced as one of three worldwide winners of the prestigious Future for Nature (FFN) Award and will soon be accepting his prize in the Netherlands.

Van Wyk works at the |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park, which spans part of South Africa and into Namibia. His focus has been on conserving the incredible succulents that grow in the region. The park is something special, boasting large arid landscapes that surprisingly teem with life.

"The |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park measures 6 045 km² and spans some of the most spectacular arid and desert mountain scenery in southern Africa. It incorporates the 4 420 km² |Ai-|Ais Hot Springs Game Park in Namibia and the 1 625 km² |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld National Park in South Africa.

"It features the world's second-largest canyon, the Fish River Canyon, which meanders for 161 km between the steep, spectacular cliffs that divide the Nama plateau. In places, the canyon floor is more than 550 m below the plateau, exposing rock of up to 2 600 million years old."

Inspired by the FFN Award winners, Wageningen University ecologists Ignas Heitkönig and Rascha Nuijten founded the FFN Academy in 2016. Currently, the FFN Academy is coordinated by Marit Hertlein.



The FFN Academy spreads the inspiration and dedication of FFN Award winners and other conservation heroes to a growing network of students and young graduates across the Netherlands, to fuel this young generation's passion for nature conservation. They do so by organising varying activities such as guest lectures, excursions and symposia and they create a platform for people to meet, discuss and make plans together for a better future for nature.

Van Wyk won because of his outstanding efforts in the protection of succulent species.

The area is renowned for housing most of the richest succulent flora of the world. The Orange River is characterised by

striking endangered riparian bush. At the Gariiep Centre of Plant Endemism, with the transfrontier park at its core, at least 2 700 species of plants, 560 of which are endemic or near-endemic, can be found.

A soft but regular and therefore effective rainfall is mainly responsible for this abundance of plant life. Many of the endemic plants are limited to small areas, mostly on mountains where the rainfall is higher and habitat diversity is greatest. The best-known endemic plants are the stem succulents known as the "halfmens", *Pachypodium namaquanum*, and the giant tree aloe, *Aloe pillansii*."

www.goodthingsguy.com

Cape Town café named one of the world's 50 Most Instagrammable

Big 7 Travel has released the list of the 50 Most Instagrammable Cafés in the world and Nourish'd, a vegan and plant-based café in Cape Town, has earned spot number 25 on the list.

Some 1.5 million people from 60 countries take surveys for Big 7 Travel and vote for the best travel accolades worldwide.

"Instagram continues to massively influence where people go on holidays, what they wear and what they eat – especially where they eat. The vast majority of us are guilty of snapping pictures of our food before we tuck in and restaurants and cafes are well aware of that trend. Instagrammable cafés have popped up all over the world with decor, dishes and drinks that are made for the gram. The kind of places that give meaning to the phrase 'the camera eats first'.

"And we can't deny that they're absolutely beautiful. So, we wanted to round up the best café designs and the most exciting food from around the world. Whether it's the setting, the decor, or the creative dishes, there's something special about every one of these

spots. The places that you simply cannot afford to miss when arriving in a new city."

The team monitored social media platforms such as Instagram to see which venues rank the highest based on visitor engagement. They placed Nourish'd on the list because of how beautiful the food and café's locations are.

"A healthy venue where every dish served looks like a work of art. The entire decor is a breath of fresh air and you'll get some seriously Instagrammable snaps in here to make your friends jealous. It's sleek and understated, yet beautiful." – Big 7 Travel

Nourish'd was founded in 2017 by Natasha Napoli, who grew up behind the counter of her father's pizzeria in Cape Town and while she was always destined to run the family business, she had bigger food dreams. The café provides plant-based and vegan cuisine that is zero waste and its practices are great for the environment.

The café has three locations, based in Kloof, Observatory and Greenpoint. They provide wholesome meals, juice smoothies

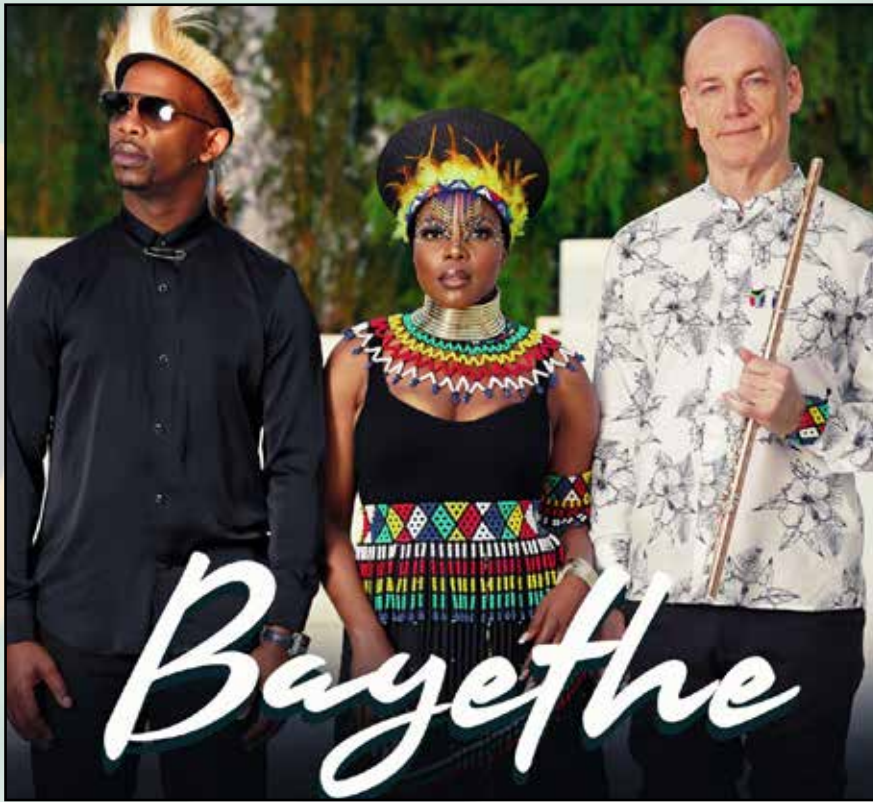


and juice-cleanse programmes for people wanting to reset their systems.

www.goodthingsguy.com

A Grammy Award for South Africa

Zakes Bantwini, Wouter Kellerman and Nomcebo Zikode won the Best Global Music Performance Award for their hit *Bayethe* at music's most prestigious event in Los Angeles on 5 February 2023. The awards were hosted by South African comedian, Trevor Noah.



"This moment right here to anybody who's in Africa just proves and affirms that every dream is valid," Bantwini said in his acceptance speech.

"Thank you so much. This is such a beautiful moment on the road to sharing South African music and culture with the world," Kellerman said during his acceptance speech.

Taking to the mic after her colleagues, Zikode sang a portion of *Jerusalem* before thanking her family and team.

This is Kellerman's fourth Grammy Award and both Zakes Bantwini's and Zikode's first.

"Unkulunkulu uNumber 1 (God is Number 1)," Zakes Bantwini wrote, retweeting the winning announcement.

"We won the Grammy for the Best Global Music Performance for our song 'Bayethe'. Thanks so much to everybody for all the support – this is for the whole of South Africa! Awesomeness," Kellerman wrote, also sharing the news on his social media.

In 2022, South African DJ and music producer, Black Coffee, won the Grammy Award for Best Dance/Electronic Album for *Subconsciously*.

www.news24.com

Tom Cruise extols the virtues of Ubuntu and says South Africa is "absolutely stunning"



Angeles, United States, on 25 February 2023, where he was the recipient of the David O Selznick Achievement Award.

Speaking on stage to the gathered film industry professionals, Cruise ended his acceptance speech with these words:

"I just got back from filming in South Africa. It's an absolutely stunning country and there's a beautiful philosophy – Ubuntu – that originated there. And it is the idea that humanity is based on the plural, not the singular. Ubuntu means essentially: I am because we are. And so, I thank all of you. I am because you are, thank you."

Cruise has spent a large part of the last year filming his latest instalment of *Mission Impossible* in South Africa.

www.sapeople.com

Tom Cruise extolled the virtues of Ubuntu and said South Africa was "absolutely stunning" Cruise has not only shared his love for

South Africa with the world, but recently also praised the philosophy of Ubuntu.

The Hollywood superstar was speaking at the 34th Producers Guild Awards in Los

Momentum Proteas make history with silver in Women's T20 World Cup Final



The Momentum Proteas played in their first-ever World Cup final: the T20 at Newlands on 26 February 2023.

Australia Women lived up to their “tournament favourites” label, remaining unbeaten in the competition after beating edging Momentum Proteas by 19 runs in the T20 women’s final in Cape Town.

The Proteas ladies walked away with silver medals after a spirited and courageous effort both with the ball and bat.

Captain Sine Luus summed up their effort as follows: “It’s been absolutely amazing. We have never imagined firstly being in the final and then

the stadium being packed every single game ... thank you Newlands and every single supporter; we love you guys.”

Moving forward from the tournament, a base has been set for women’s sport as South Africa appeared in their first-ever final in cricket.

“I don’t think there is going backwards at the moment, I hope there is a lot of development in the country and schools start getting girls cricket, and that club cricket and provincial cricket blow up.”

All-rounder Marizanne Kapp took time to reflect of the remarkable journey. “The game against England was something very special.

It’s something I will remember for the rest of my career. To beat them in the way we did with the crowd we had ... it was something I could have never imagined.” Kapp added that moving forward she hoped “things will change in the future for women’s sport and women’s cricket. I’m hoping there is a few more young girls picking up a bat today.”

Part of the 13 500 fans cheering on the home side included the likes of Mark Boucher and some notable high achievers in South African sport, such as Springbok captain, Siya Kolisi.

ewn.co.za

Two South African getaways named on "Most Romantic Hotels in the World" list



Two beautiful South African getaways have been added to the “Most Romantic Hotels in the World” list for 2023.

South Africa is home to some beautiful landscapes that bring out the romantic side for couples.

Two stunning getaways have earned a place on the “50 Most Romantic Hotels in the World” list. Some 1.5 million people from 60

countries take surveys and vote for the best travel accolades around the world. Big 7 Media shares several lists which promote global travel

The very best in South Africa according to Big 7 Travel is the Future Found Sanctuary, which earned 22nd place on the list. Lion Sands Ivory Lodge, which earned 35th, has been placed on the list for a second time.

22. Future Found Sanctuary – Western Cape “Future Found Sanctuary is Cape Town’s

only mountain retreat. Set in seven acres of secluded gardens brimming with indigenous flora and fauna, it’s the perfect place for couples to wind down after a few days in bustling Cape Town. Facilities and amenities are geared towards relaxation and restoration, from yoga and meditation to the heated and natural pools.” – Big 7 Travel.

35. Lion Sands Ivory Lodge – Mpumalanga

“Set in truly unspoiled wilderness, where the Sabi Sabi Game Reserve meets the world-renowned Kruger National Park, Lion Sands Ivory Lodge is one of South Africa’s most spectacular lodges. And, the team have thought of everything, from serving your favourite champagnes in the maxi bar to dining under the stars. For the ultimate romantic getaway, check The Kingston Treehouse. Built on boulders, you’ll need to step across a small drawbridge, with lanterns to light the way. The pictures speak for themselves ...” – Big 7 Travel.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Cape Town provides the winning formula E-Grand Prix

The atmosphere at the ninth season and fifth round of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race was a win-win for all.

The event took place on Saturday, 25 February 2023, finally delivering the dream of a Cape Town E-Prix and the most exciting motorsport event of 2023 that far, while promoting the

future of zero-emission technology. The Cape Town leg of the Formula E street racing series, which since 2014 has been held in some of the world's most iconic cities, saw a field of world-class drivers and motorsport stakeholders take on the 2.8-km, 12-turn track with breathtaking Cape Table Bay, Signal Hill and Table Mountain backdrops.

On the street and in the stands, the event generated a fever pitch of excitement among racing aficionados, and helped position Cape Town as a key destination on the global motorsport map, with the confirmation by Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis that the event has been secured by the city for the next three years.

The race was won by an elated António Félix da Costa for the Tag Heuer Porsche Formula E Team, whose crowd-thrilling overtaking manoeuvres in the 24th lap were cited by some as "the best motorsport fans will ever see".

Jean-Éric Vergne for DS PENSKE and Nick Cassidy for Envision Racing took second and third places on the winner's podium.

www.bizcommunity.com



South African Restaurant JAN in France awarded Michelin star for eighth year in a row



Restaurant JAN in Nice on the French Riviera has had its Michelin star renewed for the eighth year in a row.

Taking to social media after the prestigious awards ceremony in Strasbourg on Monday, 6 March 2023, South African celebrity chef Jan Hendrik said: "Since we first gave South African cuisine a world stage when we received our first star, the annual Michelin awards win in France have been a big deal for us."

Guests come from around the world to not only taste and savour Jan's delicious recipes, but to also experience good old South African hospitality.

"From the comfort of an elegant dining chair, guests of Restaurant JAN have been able to experience something of our amazing South African spirit and hospitality through dishes ranging from bobotie, melkkos, vetkoek, pap and sheba sauce to biltong, buchu, Rooibos,

atchar, tsamma melon and game meat," says Jan. Filled with gratitude, he wrote: "It dawned on me what a privilege it is to be a part of such a small and carefully selected group of culinary magicians. It truly is an honour to be recognised amongst such talent."

The chef, who spends his time between his beloved South Africa and France, also thanked his team in France and all the company's South African teams "for sharing what I believe is the true art of hospitality. It's very simple".

Jan (full name Jan Hendrik van der Westhuizen) was the first South African to ever receive a coveted Michelin star. Since that momentous occasion in 2016, Jean Delpont (Restaurant Interlude, United Kingdom), Conor Toomey (Condita, Scotland) and most recently, Thinus van der Westhuizen (99 Sushi Bar in Abu Dhabi) have joined the elite set of South African celebrity chefs around the world to be awarded the much sought-after star.

People in South Africa can taste Jan's cuisine at Klein JAN, his gorgeous little restaurant, nestled like a jewel, in the Kalahari. www.sapeople.com

SA's Dr Luthando Dziba selected to join Wildlife Conservation Society



Dr Luthando Dziba, the Managing Executive for SANParks Conservation Services, has been honoured with the appointment as Regional Director for East Africa, Madagascar and the West Indian Ocean at the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Dr Dziba joined SANParks five and a half years ago to lead the Conservation Services Division and has been an invaluable member of the SANParks team and leadership. He has been the voice of SANParks on matters related to conservation nationally and internationally. He carried out this responsibility with passion and flew the SANParks flag high. Dr Dziba will continue his passion for conservation at a regional scale and contribute to conservation across the African landscape and beyond.

SANParks is confident that Dr Dziba will continue to make a positive impact and will advance collaboration between South Africa (especially SANParks) and other international institutions who share the duty of conserving biodiversity across African landscapes.

SANParks Acting CEO, Property Mokoena, said: "Dr Dziba's leadership in SANParks has been felt in our conservation work in all

national parks. He and his team have led a number of key initiatives, including on rhino and elephant conservation, conservation of large predators, protected area expansion, improved management of cultural heritage, innovative conservation finance and advancing conservation research. He has also advanced collaboration with stakeholders across various conservation landscapes where we work. He leaves SANParks at a crucial time but his contribution to conservation will continue.

"On behalf of SANParks, I wish Dr Dziba and his family well on this new journey and hope that his efforts on an international and regional scale will enhance the conservation of Africa's biodiversity and Africa's contribution to the recent Global Biodiversity Framework," concluded Mokoena.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Kruger National Park earns spot on Traveler's Choice 2023 Best Nature Destinations



Krugers National Park (KNP) has placed 20th in the world for Best Nature Destinations on the TripAdvisor's Traveler's Choice Awards.

KNP is one of the wonders of South Africa, and now it is being recognised as one of the Top Destinations for Nature Enthusiasts in the World.

This is the second year in a row the park has been selected as a winner. Last year, it was chosen for the Best Outdoor Destination.

The awards take place each year, and winners are decided by travellers who have reviewed the places visited. The awards cover things to do, hotels, beaches, destinations and restaurants on a global scale as well as regionally.

"The largest game reserve in South Africa, Kruger National Park is basically a synonym for the word 'safari'. Home to over 500 bird species, 100 reptiles, nearly 150 mammals, multiple archaeological sites, and a stunningly diversity of trees and flowers, Kruger is the country's flagship national park. Adventurers

can explore the park in a 4x4, take a bush walk or fly above in a hot-air balloon." – TripAdvisor

The park is home to the iconic Big 5, every kind of bird, buck and bug, plus cheetah and wild dogs too. The reason it proves to be so popular with both local and international travellers is that it offers an affordable alternative to premium game drives.

Tourists can self-drive and self-cater a trip within the park while getting premium viewing opportunities in the comfort of their own vehicle.

www.goodthingsguy.com

SA's Special Task Force among international 10 best SWAT teams



The South African Police Service (SAPS) has congratulated the Special Task Force (STF) Unit for ranking ninth at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) SWAT Challenge.

This was after the SAPS STF took part in the annual five-day UAE SWAT Challenge that featured 55 law enforcement agency teams from around the world in February 2023.

SAPS spokesperson, Brigadier Athlenda Mathe, said: "The challenge assesses the

tactical acumen, mental focus and physical endurance of law enforcement agencies from across the world and has been designed to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise and to strengthen partnerships to make communities safe."

After five days of intense and rigorous challenges, the STF obtained ninth place with 183 points. She said this was a vast improvement from 13th place last year in which the team collected 82 points.

The team's overall commander, the Component Head Responsible for Specialised Operations, Major General Nonhlanhla Zulu, who formed part of the team in Dubai, said the SAPS was proud of the team.

"The members' performance is commendable: in the world, we are number nine but on the African continent, we are number one, so this is a big achievement. We beat Kenya and Libya. So yes, we are satisfied with the results, we hope to do better next time. We are happy to be back to continue to deal decisively with serious and violent crime in our country," said Zulu.

The STF is a highly specialised unit in the SAPS whose members are responsible for responding to high-risk incidents, which include hostage-taking cases, search-and-rescue missions, as well as providing specialised operational support to other units within the SAPS.

SAnews.gov.za

235 days later: South African makes history, wins round-the-world race



In April 2023, Kirsten Neuschäfer, a South African sailor from Gqeberha, made history by becoming the first woman to win the Golden Globe Race – a gruelling solo, round-the-world yacht race that lasted almost 235 days.

What's even more impressive is that Neuschäfer was the only female competitor among 16 entrants, all men, who set off on 4 September 2022. And at the time of her triumphant finish, only three sailors were still in the running – herself, Abhilash Tomy and Michael Guggenberger – with two more racing

in the "Chichester Class". But here's where Neuschäfer truly won the world's hearts: during the race, she stopped to rescue a fellow competitor whose boat had sunk. Tapio Lehtinen was stranded 450 miles southeast of South Africa, and Neuschäfer, who was closest to him at 95 miles away, diverted from her route to help.

She managed to reach him in under 24 hours, taking him aboard her own yacht, the *Minnehaha*, and later transferring him to a merchant ship that had been diverted to the scene. For this incredible act of seamanship,

Neuschäfer was awarded the 2022 Cruising Club of America's Rod Stephens Seamanship Trophy.

The Golden Globe Race sees solo skippers tackling the greatest challenge by sailing around the world, alone and without GPS.

The race is incredibly challenging because it is a circumnavigation race based on the original 1968 circumnavigation. This means that competitors are only allowed to use boats and equipment from 1968 and the years prior. That means no modern GPS technology onboard. Each ship is, however, equipped with modern technology, which can only be used in case of emergency, and a rescue is needed.

Neuschäfer is the first woman from South Africa to compete in the race and the second-ever woman to enter the race. She has been sailing since her youth but took it up as a career in 2006. Over the last two decades, she has been a force within the sailing community.

Her sailing has taken her all over the world, and she has specialised in expeditions to South Georgia, the Antarctic Peninsula, Patagonia and the Falklands. She has even taken several film crews to these areas to film various series for *National Geographic* and the BBC.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Cape Town voted Best Food Destination at Traveler's Choice Awards



There is an all-new kind of traveller, the kind who travels for the food; and Cape Town just earned a spot on the Best Food Destination list for 2023.

Cape Town has earned the 16th spot as the Best Food Destination on the world list at the Tripadvisor's Traveler's Choice Awards for 2023. The awards take place each year, and winners are decided by travellers

who have reviewed the places visited. The awards cover things to do, hotels, beaches, destinations and restaurants on a global scale as well as regionally.

It is no surprise that Cape Town has earned this post. The Mother City has restaurants on every corner. These are the hidden gems of the entire Western Cape, which can be found up the coast, inland towards the Klein Karoo and surrounded

by the stretching vineyards of the region.

Cape Town has a melting pot of cuisines available to the public – the most historic being the Cape Malay delicacies and spices. These are located in the city centre, along the brightly coloured houses that draw in millions of tourists each year.

www.goodthingsguy.com

SA's Binder wins Argentina MotoGP Sprint Race

South Africa's Brad Binder, riding a KTM, won the Argentina MotoGP sprint race on Saturday, 1 April 2023, ahead of Ducati duo Marco Bezzecchi and Luca Marini of Italy.

"Brad rode a mega race as we all saw," Binder's Australian KTM teammate, Jack Miller, told www.crash.net.

"He showed the bike has all the capabilities. He qualified one position in

front of me on the grid and he made it work, that's for certain.

"I could not believe it. I got a decent start but when I started the third lap and saw he was in front. What happened there?"

Binder was the star of the sprint having started from a low 15th on the grid.

The 27-year-old nipped ahead by the second lap after Franco Morbidelli on a Yamaha had been quickest off the start line.

"I surprised myself a little, but what a start," said Binder after finishing 0.072 sec ahead of Bezzecchi. "The plan worked from start to finish."

www.news24.com







Within driving distance from Cape Town, lies a region of contrasts and wonder. The Overberg has rugged mountain ranges, fynbos, rolling wheat and canola fields and splendid coastal vistas.



Gloria Bosman was more than a South African jazz vocalist, she was a guiding light

Bosman was an early challenger of stage stereotypes about South African female vocalists, their lyrical content and singing style. In her career as a teacher, she supported new generations to follow that lead.

By Gwen Ansell

Associate of the Gordon Institute for Business Science, University of Pretoria

The immediate public reaction to the death of Gloria Bosman from a short respiratory illness on 14 March 2023 was shocked disbelief. The multiple award-winning South African jazz vocalist, composer and teacher was only 50.

She had just launched a new album, *Live*, her first in a dozen years, and was on the eve of a promotional tour.

Warm tributes followed, from family, friends and industry colleagues, and from a whole generation of singers for whom – directly and indirectly – she had served as a mentor and role model.

Bosman was an early challenger of stage stereotypes about South African female vocalists, their lyrical content and

singing style. In her career as a teacher, she supported new generations to follow that lead.

Early career

Born in Mofolo and raised in Pimville in Soweto township in Johannesburg, Bosman's appearance in a 1993 Market Theatre musical drama scored her an opera scholarship to what was then the Pretoria Technikon (now the Tshwane University of Technology). Her vocal abilities attracted the attention of the late South African vocalist Sibongile Khumalo, an early mentor. By the time she graduated, she was already gathering fans as a performer.

Her stage persona in those days was low key. On intimate stages such as that of the tiny Bassline club in Johannesburg, she was often barefoot; from the start, she interrogated

the stereotyping of female vocalists as pop divas defined by flamboyant costumes and personality. Instead, she performed with the minimum of staging, making audiences focus instead on her vocal power, timing and command over material. She wrote or co-wrote many of her own songs; the lyrics were almost always hers.

Bosman always covered the songs of others alongside original material. They were never merely "covers". It's what jazz singers do. With historic songs from the South African repertoire like Alan Silinga's *Ntyilo Ntyilo*, or Alpheus Nkosi's *Lizzy*, they were a way of acknowledging and revisiting a tradition that strongly informed her own style.

She chose her songs, often, simply because they gave her the space to stretch her voice and conception in new and intriguing ways: "Songs that made me feel alive", she sang in *Play Me the Love Songs*. Her technical understanding let her bring surprising vocal textures – bird-chirps, cat-growls and more – and challenging, socially and personally aware lyrics to songs old and new.

As much as the male instrumentalists more often mentioned in histories, Bosman was key in the ground-breaking first generation of players recording on the South African Sheer Sound label, who signalled the post-liberation renaissance of original South African jazz.

A business as well as a vocal innovator, Bosman also put together a creative patchwork of music to keep food on the table, including theatre, cabaret and corporate work, teaching and other non-performing roles when the club scene went through dry periods.

Trailblazer

As much as the male instrumentalists more often mentioned in histories, Bosman was key in the ground-breaking first generation of players recording on the South African Sheer Sound label, who signalled the post-liberation renaissance of original South African jazz.

Her debut album, the 1999 *Tranquility*, was co-produced with pianist Paul Hanmer and featured him, guitarists Louis Mhlanga and Lawrence Matshiza, reedmen Steve Dyer and McCoy Mrubata, bassist Herbie Tsoaeli, and more – almost a roll-call of the jazz generation of the 1990s. It also had lyrics in the Zimbabwean Shona language as well as more familiar South African ones, backing from a string quartet, and Matshiza playing kora. It was Pan-African, innovative and yet catchy enough to feature regularly across pop music radio.

Five more albums followed: *The Many Faces of Gloria Bosman* (2001), *Stop and Think* (2002), *Nature Dances* (2003), *Emzini* (2006) and *Letters from the Heart* (2010). On each, her role as lyricist, arranger and producer grew, and she always reached out to new and exciting musical names, such as rising bassist Dalisu Ndlazi on *Live*.

Finding her feet again

When I interviewed Bosman about that latest album, she explained the hiatus in recordings as not only about the COVID conditions constraining the past two years, but the deeper changes in the South African music industry.

As physical products like CDs have been shouldered out by digital music, independent musicians increasingly carry their own burden of recording, distribution and marketing costs:

"But we come from the era of record labels. It all became a long process of finding one's footing as an independent artist and learning how to run your business.

"It gets tricky when the recording bill is your responsibility and you still have to keep food on the table ... I watched and learned from the young ones; their courage gave me flight."

More than a jazz singer

A business as well as a vocal innovator, Bosman also put together a creative patchwork of music to keep food on the table, including theatre, cabaret and corporate work, teaching and other non-performing roles when the club scene went through dry periods.

She stretched across genres, including Afrikaans and gospel music. But it wasn't only structural industry changes that posed challenges.

Although she always saw herself as a jazz singer, Bosman saw that term as defining an inclusive, not an exclusive territory. So, she would employ her extended vocal technique wherever it felt right, something that didn't always meet the conventional expectations of show bookers. Sometimes, she had to stifle her creativity.

Like many female performers, she also constantly battled quite extraordinarily backward perceptions about her image, fielding innuendo-laden interview questions. When the stylist for her *Emzini* album cover shoot put her in heels, one headline heralded, not new music – marking, among other things, a creatively important reconnection with her extended Eastern Cape province family – but, "Gloria shows her legs".

Overcoming tough times

All that led to some tough economic and emotional times. On her bluesy composition *Uzowuzwumoya*, she sang:

"I've been up, I've been down. Out in the cold, out in the rain. I'd go out, to the rain, so that no-one can see my tears."

But she worked it out. Bosman was always fiercely protective of her personal life; when we spoke at the time of *Nature Dances* in 2003, she made it clear that nothing was more important than protecting her then-young daughter Boikarabelo from what she dismissed as the "nonsense" of showbiz journalism. There's a powerful version of *God Bless the Child* on that album.

Over the years – possibly honed by those stony corporate audiences – she grew a powerfully commanding, sometimes audacious stage presence, on full display in *Live*. The intention of her final album was to assert that. But also, she said, to "remind people how special (after COVID) it is to be part of a live show again."

Bosman's memorial service was replete with tributes on how she guided and supported others. One of her most important contributions was to constantly pose – and answer – the question of the lyrics to her 2001 album *Why Not?* "How brave can you be ... who makes the rules?" And also this translation of a proverb from her song *Remembering Thami Mnyele* (a visual artist who fought against apartheid's white minority rule) on her debut album:

"People may die leaving only memories, but their loss need not be in vain, because they pave the way forward for the living."

This article was first published on *The Conversation*. 





Madosini: A South African national treasure whose music kept a rich history alive

What she produced from these instruments is unique in its variety and in the range of feelings it evokes. Her songs are poems, which speak eloquently of a rich personal and cultural history. They take listeners back to the music of the earliest inhabitants of southern Africa.

By Boudina McConnachie
Ethnomusicology and African Musical Arts Lecturer, Rhodes University

Renowned African musician, songwriter and storyteller Latozi “Madosini” Mphahleni passed away late in 2022. The cultural and indigenous music activist, who laughed as often as she played, was loved by everyone she met. She has left behind a rich legacy of Xhosa music, heritage and history. She also taught and nurtured a new generation of bow players, reinvigorating an art that was dying.

The iconic South African Xhosa bow performer was born on 25 December 1943 (though she herself was uncertain of the precise date) in a village called Mqhekezweni near Mthatha in the Eastern Cape province. Home to the Xhosa people, the region is rich in cultural heritage and history. It is also the birthplace of many of South Africa’s most recognised struggle heroes, including former presidents Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki.

Madosini (mother of the Dosini clan), as she was more commonly known, used indigenous music to promote her Xhosa heritage. She mastered instruments like

the *uhadi* (gourd resonated bow), the *umrhubhe* (mouth resonated bow) and the *isitolotolo* (jaw harp).

What she produced from these instruments is unique in its variety and in the range of feelings it evokes. Her songs are poems, which speak eloquently of a rich personal and cultural history. They take listeners back to the music of the earliest inhabitants of southern Africa.

Madosini came into contact with myself, my colleagues and our students at Rhodes University in the Eastern Cape, sharing her knowledge with our music school and touching our lives.

Her contributions to the study of Xhosa music, culture and folklore are invaluable. Her drive to value indigenous knowledge will remain an inspiration to many around the world.

The musician

Madosini began performing, composing songs and making instruments at a young age, learning from her mother, who was an expert in their playing and construction. Due to an illness, Madosini did not attend

school and never learnt to read or write. This did not hinder her success, however.

She went on to collaborate, using a variety of musical genres, with many well-known South African artists. Among them were Ringo Madlingozi, Pops Mohamed, Thandiswa Mazwai and Sibongile Khumalo. She also worked with many international artists, including Flynn Cohen and Gilberto Gil.

Notably, she worked with the great South African singer-songwriter Miriam Makeba and British rock singer Patrick Duff, with whom she toured the globe.

The South African composer Hans Huyssen created *The Songs of Madosini* (vocals, *uhadi*, *umrhubhe*, *isitolotolo*, clarinet, string quartet and narrator) for her in 2002. And Madosini’s original compositions were used in the South African movies *Yesterday* and *The Shore Break*. Other recording samples were played in various films and documentaries.

Mastery of the bows

Although Madosini became known to popular audiences mostly as a singer and

Her contributions to the study of Xhosa music, culture and folklore are invaluable. Her drive to value indigenous knowledge will remain an inspiration to many around the world.

storyteller, it is her lifelong mastery of the *uhadi* and *umrhubhe* bows, as well as the *isitototolo*, that have attracted musicologists like myself to her work.

The players of these instruments exploit the most primordial source of musical pitch, the overtone series, in a way that is both intimately connected with the earliest human society (the San people) and also unique to Xhosa music. Overtones offer an alternating

tonality shift between the harmonics of two fundamentals.

Madosini not only built and performed on these instruments since she was a teenager, but also taught them in person to young musicians and travelled extensively to share her world-class talent with international audiences. Until they met her, many had never had any association with Xhosa people beyond Nelson Mandela.

The educator

Rhodes University and the International Library of African Music worked extensively with Madosini for many years and awarded her an Honorary Doctorate in Music in 2020. Due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions at the time, the physical celebrations of this honour were deferred. In 2022, she was formally robed and hooded in full view of her family and her community at Mkhankatho village.


She stressed the need to educate and train young people – not only to value indigenous knowledge, but to ensure that Xhosa instruments and stories remained relevant. She said in a 2018 interview:

“The youth have forgotten their roots. They don’t know where they come from and it really saddens me to see our cultures and traditions slowly die out.”

Notably, she worked with the great South African singer-songwriter Miriam Makeba and British rock singer Patrick Duff, with whom she toured the globe.

Queen of Xhosa music

As the queen of Xhosa music, Madosini was undoubtedly a towering figure in South African culture. Her role as a traditionalist in a fast-changing society presented a golden opportunity for research and exploration into indigenous knowledge systems. These are integral to the preservation of South Africa’s cultural heritage.

We at Rhodes University honour her incredible spirit, and we are grateful for her contribution to the revaluing of traditional bow playing in South Africa and the world. 

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.





Investec Cape Town Art Fair 2023:

A decade of achievement

The 2023 edition provided a moment to reflect on the fair's impact, in bringing the visual arts community under one roof and creating a platform for the advancement of the sector.

Investec Cape Town Art Fair hosted its 10th anniversary edition from 17 to 19 February 2023 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, featuring 88 exhibitors.

The art fair offers an intimate experience of the largest contemporary art fair in Africa, in one of the world's most vibrant art cities. The fair provides a platform for collectors, galleries, curators, artists and art journalists from around the globe to engage and create connections. The Investec Cape Town Art Fair has proven to be the place where the fast-growing African art market and the international art world meet.

The 10th anniversary of Investec Cape Town Art Fair explored the notion of time. This theme was appropriately wide-ranging and encompassed ideas related to the past, present and future, including the ever-important concept of change that comes with the passing of time both for humans and the world around us.

The 2023 edition provided a moment to reflect on the fair's impact, in bringing the visual arts community under one roof and creating a platform for the advancement of the sector. By bringing together a diverse group of celebrated exhibitors, including prominent galleries from around the globe, the Investec Cape Town Art Fair also provided an opportunity to showcase Cape Town, the city's people and their creative achievements.

In presenting and welcoming participating galleries, Investec Cape Town Art Fair Director, Laura Vincenti, said: "Investec Cape Town Art Fair continues to evolve and grow with those who support it. Together with this extraordinary visual arts community, we have created a platform for the advancement of all. Our progress has not been confined to the visual arts sector, because we have had a positive impact in all areas related to our practice. Investec Cape Town Art Fair

welcomes you. Cape Town welcomes you. Together, we will reflect on an amazing decade and plan the decade ahead."

Investec Cape Town Art Fair offers an intimate experience of the largest contemporary art fair in Africa, in one of the world's most vibrant art cities.

Participating international galleries included: 31 PROJECT (Paris, France); Afriart Gallery (Kampala, Uganda); AGorgi Gallery (Tunis, Tunisia); Anna Laudel (Istanbul, Turkey); ARTCO Gallery (Aachen, Berlin, Germany); Atelier le Grand Village (Massignac, France); Bode Projects (Berlin, Germany); C24 Gallery (New York, United States); ERA Gallery (Milan, Italy); First Floor Gallery Harare (Harare, Zimbabwe); Galerie Atiss Dakar (Dakar, Senegal); Galerie Carole Kvasnevski (Paris, France); Galerie EIGEN + ART (Leipzig, Berlin, Germany); Galleria Six (Milan, Italy); Gallerie Eric Dupont (Paris, France); Gallery 1957 (Accra, Ghana); Madragoa (Lisbon, Portugal); Giovanni Bonelli (Milan, Pietrascata, Italy); LAB36+Senda (Barcelona, Spain); LIS10 Gallery (Arezzo, Italy); Madragoa (Lisbon, Portugal); Mashrabia Gallery of Contemporary Art (Cairo, Egypt); Michela Rizzo (Venice, Italy), Mimmo Scognamiglio Arte Contemporanea (Milan, Italy); OH GALLERY (Dakar, Sénégal); Ora Loapi (Gaborone, Botswana); Galerie Cécile Fakhoury (Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan; Dakar, Senegal; Paris, France); Osart Gallery (Milan, Italy); P420 (Bologna, Italy); Primo Marella

Gallery (Milan, Italy); Prometeo Gallery Ida Pisani (Milan, Lucca, Italy); SEPTIEME Gallery (Paris, France); Shazar Gallery (Naples, Italy); Strouk gallery (Paris, France); Suburbia Contemporary (Barcelona, Spain); THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE GALLERY (Lisbon, Portugal; Luanda, Angola); and Reiners Contemporary Art (Marbella, Spain).

Participating galleries in South Africa included: 131 A Gallery (Cape Town); 99 Loop Gallery (Cape Town); Asisebenze Art Atelier (Johannesburg); ArtThrob (Cape Town); Artist Proof Studio (Johannesburg); Bag Factory Artists' Studios (Johannesburg); Barnard Gallery (Cape Town); Berman Contemporary (Johannesburg); BKHz Gallery (Johannesburg); blank projects (Cape Town); Bubbegum Gallery (Johannesburg); Christopher Moller Gallery (Cape Town); CHURCH Projects (Cape Town); Dale Sargent Fine Art (Johannesburg); EBONY/CURATED (Cape Town, Franschhoek); Eclectica Contemporary (Cape Town); Everard Read (Cape Town, Johannesburg, Franschhoek, London); Gallery De Move On (Cape Town); Goodman Gallery (Cape Town, Johannesburg, London); Guns & Rain (Johannesburg); Kalashnikovv Gallery (Johannesburg); LL Editions Contemporary (Johannesburg); Nel (Cape Town); RESERVOIR (Cape Town); Riaan Bolt Antiques (Johannesburg); SMAC Gallery (Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg); STEVENSON (Cape Town); South Atlantic Press (Cape Town); Southern Guild (Cape Town); Thomarts Gallery (Johannesburg); THK Gallery (Cape Town); Untitled (Cape Town); Vault Research (Cape Town); WALL (Cape Town); WHATIFTHEWORLD (Cape Town); and Worldart (Cape Town).

<https://investeccapetownartfair.co.za>

Investec Cape Town Art Fair has proven to be the place where the fast-growing African art market and the international art world meet.



The world's first Islamic art biennale shines a light on Muslim African artists

It is important that we acknowledge that Islamic faith, Islamic practice and Islamic tradition can and should be making a creative contribution to the world.

By Sumayya Vally

Honorary Professor of Practice, Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London

The inaugural Islamic Arts Biennale was recently held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (Biennales are large and prestigious international art exhibitions held every two years.) This important new event for the Muslim world featured numerous African artists. And the biennale's artistic director was Sumayya Vally, a South African Architecture Professor and principal of Counterspace design studio. A rising

star in the art and architecture worlds, Vally was intent on creating the biennale to connect with the diverse experiences of being Muslim through rituals, practices and philosophies. *The Conversation Africa* asked her five questions about the biennale.

What is the importance of an Islamic biennale?

The field of "Islamic art" was defined by Europeans in the 1800s – and hinged on

geography, style and historical chronology. So, it was inherited from definitions outside the faith. It's my hope that this biennale puts forth a different definition of and for Islamic arts – one that recognises Islamic philosophies for our present and future, and one that honours the daily lived experiences of the Muslim world.

It is important that we acknowledge that Islamic faith, Islamic practice and Islamic tradition can and should be making a creative contribution to the world. The



Through performance, sculpture and installation, South African tapestry artist Igshaan Adams' piece *Salat al-jama'ah* explores aspects of politics, race and religion as they have affected both his personal history and that of his community.

biennale's theme of *Awwal Bait* refers to the reverence and symbolic unity evoked by the Ka'bah in Makkah (often referred to as the Kaaba shrine in Mecca), the centre of Islamic rituals.

A big part of what this biennale aimed to demonstrate is that Islamic practice is rooted in collective rituals and experiences of

community and belonging. I believe platforms like this have a role to play in understanding the profound cultural and artistic heritages around us; and in nurturing and promoting understanding between communities.

Why is this significant for African artists?

It is not often that the opportunity comes along for artists to fully immerse themselves in work that is expressly Islamic, or rooted in its rituals, philosophies and practices. In highlighting the diversity of Islamic ways of being, participating African artists contribute to the many notions of what Islam is and can be.

Could you walk us through the show?

I interpreted the entrance area in the Hajj Terminal of Jeddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport as a reception area for the world – what the city is and the site has always been. It's the gateway to hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage, and the terminal is

able to accommodate up to 80 000 pilgrims. For the biennale, it contained an array of contemporary and older artefacts associated with those who serviced pilgrims.

From there, visitors moved to the indoor galleries. Their principal theme was that of the sacred direction (qiblah) to which Muslims point in prayer five times a day, every day of the year. And the focus of those rituals, the Ka'aba in Makkah. It describes the construction of our daily spiritual belonging.

Starting in a dimly lit room and ending in a brightly lit space, viewers went on a journey from darkness to light. It moved up in scale. From the call to prayer – sound on the vibrational scale – to the scale of the limbs and the body in prayer. To bodies in gathering – both in life and death. The climax of the exhibition was the scale of infinity – the door of the Ka'aba itself. The works included sound installations, ancient artefacts, religious manuscripts, photographic works and diverse contemporary installations ranging in scale.



In the outside space, within the Hijrah (migration) theme of the biennale, the works reflected on the construction of home and belonging no matter where we are in the world – the building blocks of community created through our rituals of food, sound, festival, time and season, work, worship, memory and imagination.

Many contemporary migrations in our world are synonymous with loss and displacement, and rituals become a remaking of home.

Outside, works increased in scale to sculpture and built structures. Each of these was an invitation for an activation. Throughout the biennale, they hosted gatherings, performances and discussions.

Could you discuss some of the African works?

It is very hard for me to single out any one piece, as each of them holds their own power in telling a unique, individual story. However, I will share some detail behind just three.

Through performance, sculpture and installation, South African tapestry artist

Igshaan Adams' piece *Salat al-jama'ah* explores aspects of politics, race and religion as they have affected both his personal history and that of his community.

His intricate woven artworks employ a range of natural and synthetic materials, but many draw inspiration for their form and pattern from traditional Islamic textiles. For this work, he collected a number of used prayer rugs from close friends and family living in the Bonteheuwel district of Cape Town. In this district, many black and coloured families were forcibly moved by the apartheid authorities in the 1960s.

Each rug records the imprint of its owner's body in the act of prayer over many years. Adams has interpreted these patterns of wear using beads and semiprecious stones to create a series of new textile pieces. They speak of the value of collective worship.

The scale and story of *Amongst Men* by fellow South African artist Haroon Gunn-Salie stands out. He is named after Abdullah Haron, a South African imam (Muslim cleric). An outspoken critic of apartheid, Haron was murdered while in police custody in 1969. His funeral was attended by over

Through the biennale, I hoped to convey the timelessness of Islamic thinking and practice, and the diversity and breadth of the Muslim world. The philosophies of the Islamic faith offer the potential to think about the future differently.

40 000 mourners, acting in defiance of the apartheid authorities.

Developed by Gunn-Salie in collaboration with Haron's widow, Galiema, and daughter, Fatiema Haron-Masoet, *Amongst Men* conceptually re-creates this event. A thousand individually suspended kufi caps (headpieces worn by Muslim men across Africa and South Asia) evoke the scene at the Cape Town cemetery where Haron was buried. The accompanying audio includes extracts from one of his sermons and from a poem by his friend, South African writer James Matthews, and the voices of his daughters. *Amongst Men* invites the onlooker to consider the intersecting histories of Islam and resistance to colonialism and apartheid.

An installation by Tanzanian artist Lubna Chowdhary celebrates generosity and hospitality in Islam, and communal rituals of eating and praying. Its form – a long, low table – draws on the traditions of the majlis (sitting room), a place where guests are entertained, often sitting on cushions or carpets. As more guests arrive, more carpets are added, symbolising a welcome that can be extended infinitely.

The theme of boundless sharing is reflected in the structure of the table, which is inspired by open-source furniture design.

What have you taken from this experience?

Through the biennale, I hoped to convey the timelessness of Islamic thinking and practice, and the diversity and breadth of the Muslim world. The philosophies of the Islamic faith offer the potential to think about the future differently. 🕌

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.





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LOCAL ARTISTS PUT AFRICAN ANIMATION ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

As the industry continues to grow, it is creating even more opportunities for local animators to showcase South Africa's unique storytelling and creative talent to the world.

By Brent Lindeque

www.goodthingsguy.com

South Africa's animation industry is taking the world by storm. Local animators are creating content that is entertaining and meaningful, while also showcasing the country's unique culture and perspectives.

The impact of their work is being felt around the globe, and now these incredible creatives were part of the dynamic programme at the Cape Town International Animation Festival (CTIAF), from 27 to 30 April 2023 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), which was collocated with the highly anticipated Comic-Con Cape Town.

One such industry trailblazer is character animator and animation director, Annike Pienaar, whose work has opened doors for her to relocate to France, where she works at visual effects company, Illumination Mac Guff. Having animated on films such as *Stickman* (2015), *The Highway Rat* (2017) and the Oscar-nominated production of *Revolting Rhymes* (2016), adding to her long list of credentials, is her most recent contribution to the star-studded film *Sing 2* (2022).

Notable animators making waves include Marc Moynihan and Dylan McGarry, whose animation project entitled "Indlela Yokuphila", which is isiZulu for "the soul's journey", aims to educate the world around

the cultural and spiritual significance of the oceans from the South African context. Within these ranks is British Academy Film and Television Awards (BAFTA)-winning director, Daniel Snaddon, best known for his work on *Stickman* (2015), *The Snail and the Whale* (2019) and *Zog* (2018), and who holds awards and nominations for his contribution to the animation industry as a whole. Their work has helped to showcase the diversity of South African storytelling and has brought new perspectives to the world of animation.

As the industry continues to grow, it is creating even more opportunities for local animators to showcase South Africa's unique storytelling and creative talent to the

world, and it was championed by the CTIAF, which is the largest dedicated African animation festival on the continent.

With an exciting hybrid programme of talks, workshops, screenings, producer meetings, business-to-business sessions and more, the CTIAF provided an opportunity to engage with global industry leaders, shine a spotlight on African talent and create a platform for connections and sharing of knowledge between local animators and their international counterparts.

The impact of South African animators is not limited to their creative output. Their work has also had a significant economic impact, creating jobs and driving innovation in the industry. According to a report by the National Film and Video Foundation, the animation industry in South Africa is growing at a rate of 5% per year and employs over 3 000 people.

“We’ve witnessed the incredible growth of animation in South Africa, and year after year, we’re continuously impressed by the immense success local artists have achieved, and we continue to advocate for, and promote these incredible achievements”, says Director of the CTIAF, Dianne Makings.

“We’re elated to continue this celebratory streak at this year’s Cape Town International Animation Festival as we recognise, engage with, and learn from the talent that has put

The impact of South African animators is not limited to their creative output. Their work has also had a significant economic impact, creating jobs and driving innovation in the industry. According to a report by the National Film and Video Foundation, the animation industry in South Africa is growing at a rate of 5% per year and employs over 3 000 people.

us on the map, but most importantly, we’re looking to empower the next generation of animators while holding a spotlight to the work that continues to come from the continent”, concludes Makings.

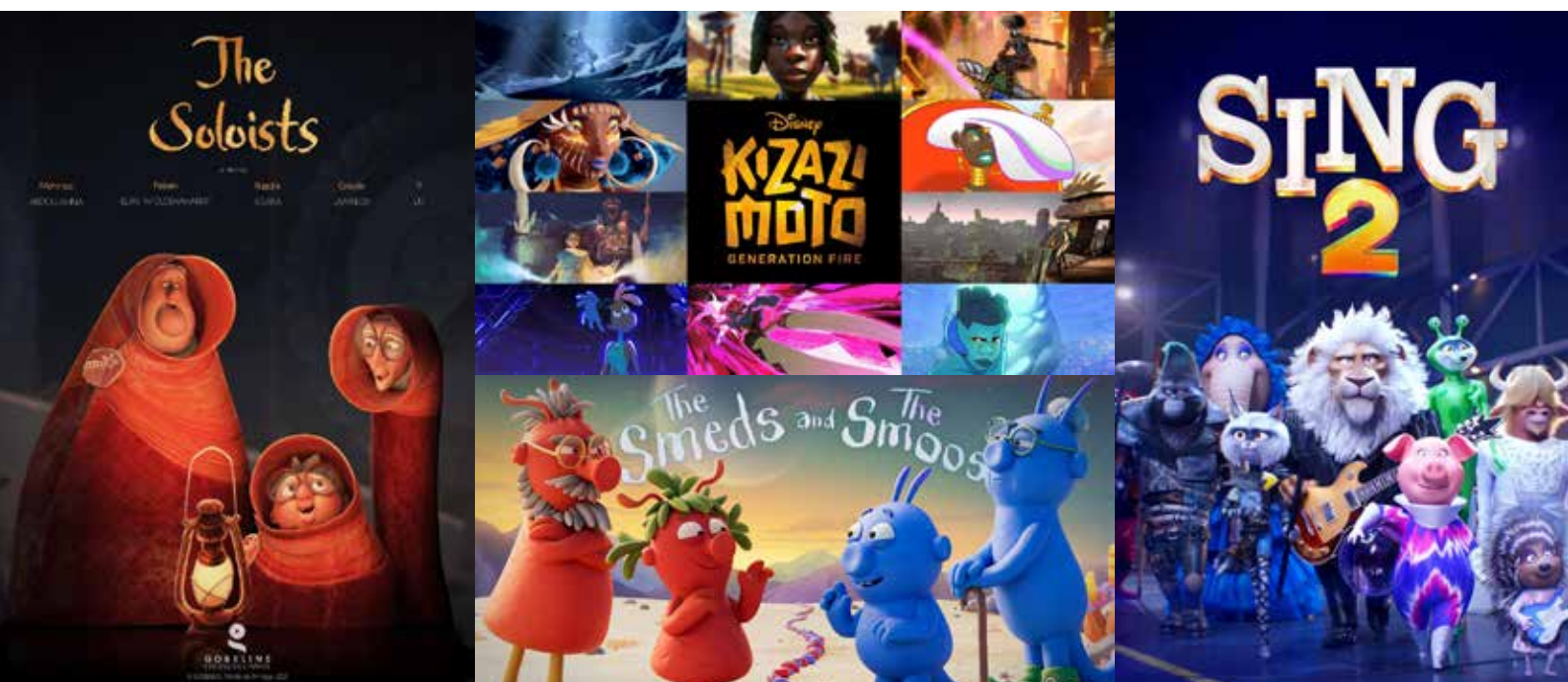
South African animators like Celeste Jamneck are being celebrated globally. Now lecturing at the Savannah College of Art and Design in the United States, she attributes her career growth to the incredible work she’s done as part of a team whose project, entitled *The Soloists*, garnered over 113 festivals mentioned, won over 20 awards, was nominated for a Student BAFTA and celebrated the win of an Annie Award in Los Angeles.

The success of South African animators has also inspired others in the country to pursue careers in the industry. The availability of high-quality training and job opportunities have created a pipeline of

talent that is driving the industry forward. An example of inspirational industry players includes Triggerfish Animation Studios, Africa’s leading animation studio, which has gained worldwide recognition for its feature films and television shows.

Its films, such as *Adventures in Zambezia* and *Khumba*, have been distributed internationally and have received critical acclaim. As contributors to Oscar-nominated, BAFTA-nominated and Emmy-award-winning productions, the animation studio has put Africa on the map once again with Disney+’s *Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire* (2023), an animated anthology that highlights the talent of African animators from South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya and Egypt.

The impact of South African animators is significant and far-reaching, beyond the entertainment industry. 🇺🇸





SEVEN SOUTH AFRICAN TRAVELOGUES YOU SHOULD READ

Exposing structures and norms that privilege white travel, as well as centring the voices of those on the move who haven't traditionally been counted as travellers, are important aspects of "decolonising travel."

By Janet Remington

Research Associate, Humanities Research Centre (and African Literature Department, University of the Witwatersrand), University of York

Travel writing in Africa is often associated with colonial ventures of the past or white adventure pursuits of today. But Africans themselves have long produced captivating travel texts in oral and written forms.

We need to look beyond narrowly Western or white accounts as travel writing is produced across the world by an extensive range of writers. Literary ezines (electronic magazines on the Internet) dedicated to diverse travel writing are thriving.

That said, the cultures and literatures of travel from Africa have long been under-recognised by mobility studies.

Exposing structures and norms that privilege white travel, as well as centring the voices of those on the move who haven't traditionally been counted as travellers, are important aspects of "decolonising travel".

The "travelling while black" movement foregrounds racial danger and discrimination around travel, while illuminating distinctive experiences that black travel brings. With this telling phrase as its title, Kenyan writer and analyst Nanjala Nyabola's ground-shifting book explores multiple dimensions of being a mobile African woman.

As a literary scholar of these books, I've recently published a research paper that explores how a range of contemporary popular travelogues by black South Africans offer fresh, often provocative, perspectives.

The travelogues, mostly focussing on exploring Africa (including South Africa itself), bring to life the places visited and celebrate the acts of travel – while also reflecting deeply on what the travel means.

Travel in South Africa is no straightforward subject. It takes on heightened significance in the light of the country's history of colonialism and apartheid. Apartheid, South Africa's institutionalised system of segregation, attempted to limit or force black mobility and regulate black travel in intensive ways.

In post-apartheid South Africa, much has been in flux. While race-based mobility laws are no longer in place, questions of black movement, border crossings and belonging are peaking. In many of the travelogues in my research, the writers reflect on how history, race, nationality, gender and other factors affect travel.

1. *Vagabond* by Lerato Mogoatlhe

Journalist Lerato Mogoatlhe, loved on social media as *Madam Afrika*, shares her action-

packed experiences of travelling to 21 African countries over five years in her debut book *Vagabond: Wandering Through Africa on Faith* (2019).

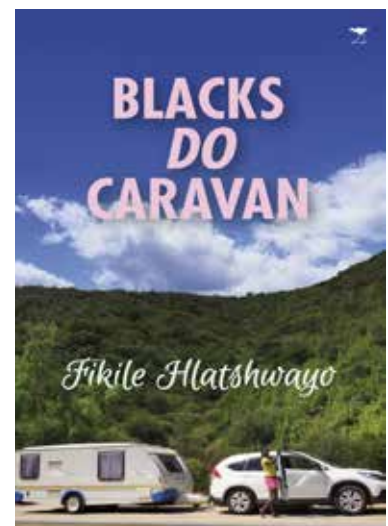
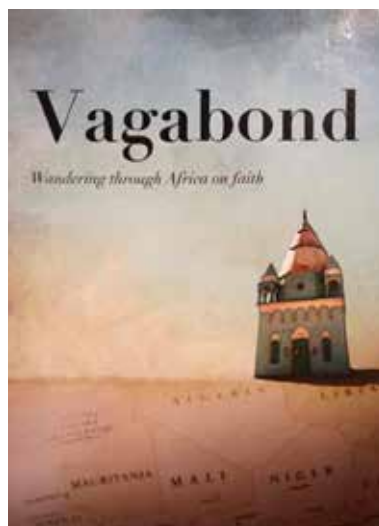
She dedicates her adventures to "those who had gone before", including her grandparents "who could only travel in their dreams". What motivates her is the "freedom to wander from place to place and the possibility of knowing the world beyond what's around my corner".

She sees travel on the continent as giving her "the opportunity to experience being black and African without disguising or denying myself to fit in".

2. Niq Mhlongo's blog

Along with tales of book hustles, visa hassles, local brews and astounding sights, novelist Niq Mhlongo reflects on how the past and present connect through journeying in his energetic travel blog.

On his 4 459-km trip through Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, he emphasises that African travel enables the retracing of "the history of our people that has not been properly documented or told".



3. *Hardly Working* by Zukiswa Wanner

A multi-country African journey with the thrills and spills of public transport is the story of novelist Zukiswa Wanner's *Hardly Working: A Travel Memoir of Sorts* (2018) – on one level. She is also on the road to teach her son about the continent beyond the realms of “a textbook”.

As a child of exiled South African and Zimbabwean parents, she has been transnationally mobile since childhood, but imbues this trip with special importance. It marks her 40th birthday and four decades since the 1976 Soweto uprising.

Through her journeying, she powerfully links up personal and historic milestones to reflect on her own life and a nation that hasn't lived up to its post-apartheid promises.

4. *Reclaiming Home* by Lesego Malepe

She returns from decades in the United States to criss-cross the country of her birth over 11 months.

During apartheid, “the many discriminatory laws made travel for a black person very difficult”, so she explores every corner of South Africa for herself and in memory of her brother.

As a political prisoner on Robben Island off Table Bay, Cape Town, for 22 years, her brother was taunted by the view of Table Mountain and all that lay out of reach.

5. *Rainbow Nation, My Zulu Arse* by Sihle Khumalo

Travel writer Sihle Khumalo takes to the road to write his first book about his native South Africa in *Rainbow Nation, My Zulu Arse* (2019). While he is known for his upbeat approach (his brawny debut was *Dark Continent, My Black Arse* in 2016), he starts this journey at apartheid's Sharpeville massacre site in

contemplative mode. He strikes a note of “looking back” as “part of moving forward” and connects his travel to historical sites, among others, to try and grasp where the country's headed.

Khumalo's book is far from solemn though. It rants and raves across the spectacular terrain of nine provinces, bringing to life dusty towns, forgotten communities, bright lights and open horizons.

He accentuates that travel is “about being greedy for new experiences that can never happen if you do not move your sorry ignorant naïve self from one point to the other”.

6. *Blacks Do Caravan* by Fikile Hlatshwayo

Equally ambitious, but striking a different note, is author and businesswoman Fikile Hlatshwayo.

Her *Blacks Do Caravan* (2016) is based on an extended family adventure, providing an inspirational, full-colour guide to 60 camp sites across South Africa and neighbouring Eswatini.

Before becoming a tourism champion, she had grown up with the idea that camping was “purely for white people”. Travel has a vital role to play in “breaking down barriers and stereotypes”, says Hlatshwayo.

7. *Those Who Travel Meet Themselves*

In a similar vein, writer Michelle van Onna Green-Thompson edited a booklet of stories, *Those Who Travel Meet Themselves* (2018).

We need to look beyond narrowly Western or white accounts as travel writing is produced across the world by an extensive range of writers. Literary ezines (electronic magazines on the internet) dedicated to diverse travel writing are thriving.

In it, she casts herself and fellow millennial travel contributors as “door openers” in 21st century South Africa. Knitting together travel and life trajectories, she encourages young black South Africans to grab hold of horizons denied to earlier generations.

She links encountering new “spaces” to discovering “pages” of life.

Claiming spaces

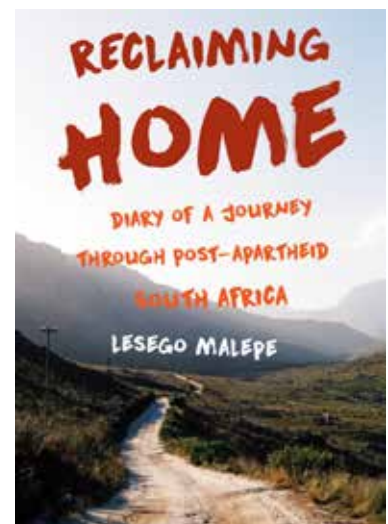
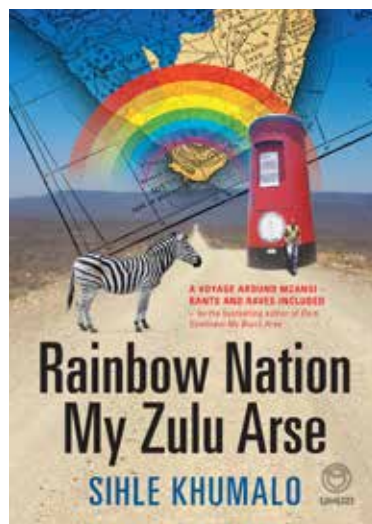
These vibrant, varied South African writers embrace the open road. Far from needing to “justify their movements”, which tends to be the case for black travellers, as historian Christabelle Peters highlights, they bring irrepressible stories of touring for its own sake. They claim spaces and places as black travellers, as movers and shakers.

At another level, these travelogues don't miss a chance to explore their mobility as a form of time travel and of human expression. The past is never far away as they think of those who didn't have the same freedoms. At the same time, they assess how much the country they call home has “travelled” from its past, as well as towards imagined post-apartheid futures. Many of the writers reflect, too, on what it means to visit South Africa as a black person from other Africa countries, as borders tighten and attitudes sharpen.

For these contemporary writers, who take themselves and their readers on transporting journeys, there's no turning back. 🇿🇦

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

For these contemporary writers, who take themselves and their readers on transporting journeys, there's no turning back.



Five things you didn't know about Africa's most loved destinations

It is no surprise that the Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and Zanzibar stood out as winners for beach holidays, while South Africa's Stellenbosch, Cape Town and Hermanus were ranked highly for their food, restaurants and wildlife, respectively.

Unlike traditional tourism awards or surveys, the Tourism Sentiment Index (TSI) sources data from more than 500 000 online, peer-to-peer communication platforms, including all major social networks and review sites, to deliver the clearest picture of what people

are talking about and writing about when it comes to travel, tourism and the hottest destinations around the globe.

The latest TSI data shows five African destinations are proving to be crowd favourites.

It is no surprise that the Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius and Zanzibar stood out as winners for beach holidays, while South Africa's Stellenbosch, Cape Town and

Hermanus were ranked highly for their food, restaurants and wildlife, respectively.

Goodthingsguy asked travel industry and destination experts to weigh in on the accolades and share things many probably didn't know about the African destinations currently being so popular.



Cape Town – home to cuisine over 350 years old

Cape Town restaurants regularly feature in The World's 50 Best Restaurant Awards – with Fyn Restaurant earning the plum spot of 37 in 2022.

Robert More, custodian and CEO of MORE Family Collection, who recently launched Upper Union Restaurant in Cape Town, notes that Malay Cape Cuisine has become

synonymous with fine dining in the Mother City. "Chefs are drawn to the complex combination of strong, spicy and aromatic flavours. It's no surprise that Malay cuisine is used and interpreted in many Cape Town restaurants, including Upper Union, which is a perfect addition to our globally inspired menu," says More.

"During colonial times, many Malaysian, Indonesian and East African slaves who were taken to the Cape in the 17th and 18th centuries had limited access to their traditional ingredients and therefore had to improvise. This has resulted in a cuisine, which is solely unique to the Cape, and steeped in history and tradition."



Seychelles – only 1% of the country is solid land

With over 115 islands but only 459 square kilometres of land, an astounding 99% of this paradise is made up of water. And the island nation has taken impressive steps to protect it, designating 30% of its waters as marine protected areas. “We’re not surprised that Seychelles ranked fourth in the world in the Tourism Sentiment Index. Seychelles’

water means everything to our people and the economy, and we are doing everything possible to protect it with our new Marine Spatial Plan,” says the Principal Secretary for Environment, Dennis Matatiken.

Matatiken continues: “Visitors to Seychelles are likely familiar with its gorgeous coral-filled reefs, but few know that these same waters

act as a stopping point for whale sharks migrating from east to west each year. These majestic creatures make their way to Australia annually, taking advantage of this idyllic oasis before continuing their journey.”

Known for its incredible selection of wine farms, Stellenbosch is a mecca for oenophiles worldwide – hence it scooping the 34th spot in the TSI 2023.



Stellenbosch – the birthplace of a unique wine variety

Known for its incredible selection of wine farms, Stellenbosch is a mecca for oenophiles worldwide – hence it scooping the 34th spot in the TSI 2023.

It took top honours at the 2022 International Wine and Spirit Competition in 2022 with top trophies for both best red and white wine producers of the year. With more than 200 wine farms to choose from, visitors are spoilt for choice when seeking out their ideal winery

experience and in the case of Pinotage, it's one you can't replicate anywhere else in the world. That's because scientist Abraham Perold created Pinotage in 1925 in Stellenbosch. He crossed the Cinsaut and Pinot Noir varietals, explains Visit Stellenbosch CEO, Jeanneret Momberg.

“Pinotage wine is becoming increasingly popular as wine drinkers worldwide discover its dark fruit and oak flavours. We've been

excited to see that as it has increased in popularity, more visitors come to Stellenbosch on Pinotage pilgrimages,” says Momberg.

She notes Kanonkop Estate, Beyerskloof and Kaapzicht are prime examples of wine farms in Stellenbosch benefitting from the worldwide “passion for Pinotage”.



While South Africa's game lodges and reserves are world-renowned, Hermanus wins bragging rights as a wildlife destination of choice thanks to the majestic southern right whales that are drawn to its shallow, sandy covers to breed.



Hermanus – has a resident whale crier

While South Africa's game lodges and reserves are world-renowned, Hermanus wins bragging rights as a wildlife destination of choice thanks to the majestic southern right whales that are drawn to its shallow, sandy covers to breed.

"The unique geography of the shoreline of Hermanus means that these gentle giants can

easily be observed from the land – or your hotel room, in the case of The Marine Hotel, which overlooks the whale sanctuary," says Giltedge Group CEO, Murray Gardiner.

It was 1991 when Hermanus first made history as the only town on Earth to have its very own whale crier. The tradition began

informally, with a local alerting tourists of whale sightings, and soon became officially recognised, explains Gardiner.

"Thanks to this remarkable innovation, everyone visiting Hermanus is now treated to a unique experience," he says.




Mauritius – it has more than one island

The Republic of Mauritius is renowned for its idyllic tropical beaches on the coastline, approximately 330 km long. But the country of Mauritius includes the island of Mauritius, Rodrigues and the constituent outer islands of Agaléga and St Brandon.

Antoinette Turner, GM of Flight Centre South Africa, offers her insights into Rodrigues, a gorgeous destination with just a short boat or plane trip away from Mauritius.

She explains: "This is an area of incredible beauty that remains largely undisturbed and

unspoilt and is a must-visit for those keen on water sports." 

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Young SA crew make history with podium finish in Cape2Rio

The dreams of five young South Africans came true on 26 January 2023, as their boat, the *Alexforbes ArchAngel*, arrived in Rio de Janeiro after 24 days and a 3 300 nautical mile ocean crossing from Cape Town to Guanabara Bay.

In a history-making voyage, the *Alexforbes ArchAngel* – the first complete crew from the Royal Cape Yacht Club (RCYC) Sailing Academy hailing from marginalised communities – crossed the finish line of the 50th Cape2Rio yacht race, after a thrilling battle to gain third position.

The dreams of five young South Africans came true on 26 January 2023, as their boat, the *Alexforbes ArchAngel*, arrived in Rio de Janeiro after 24 days and a 3 300 nautical mile ocean crossing from Cape Town to Guanabara Bay.

Skipper Sibusiso Sizatu (30), first mate Daniel Agulhas (29), Renaldo Tshepo Mohale (29), Azile Arosi (22) and Justin Peters (21) departed on 2 January with the backdrop of the historic Robben Island reminding them of Nelson Mandela's words, "It always seems impossible until it's done".

The final hours of *Alexforbes ArchAngel's* race saw the boat neck and neck with their closest competitor, *Argonaut*, eventually beating them by 23 minutes.

"This is the achievement of our lives. So many years, so many obstacles, yet we kept moving forward. Thank you to my

crew, the Royal Cape Yacht Club Academy, our sponsor Alexforbes and our supporters. When we were down at sea, your support drove us. This one is for you," said Sizatu.

"Crossing the meridian was a moment we won't forget, as well as the last 16 hours, where we were all hands-on deck racing for a podium position."

Born into disadvantaged communities, the crew have broken stereotypes of race and class and demonstrated that it is possible for people from diverse backgrounds to participate in sports such as yachting, previously accessible only to the privileged few. The sailors, hailing from Masiphumelele, Khayelitsha, Grassy Park and Athlone in Cape Town, were trained by the RCYC Sailing Academy and sponsored by Alexforbes.

The RCYC was established in 2012 with the purpose of exposing youth from marginalised communities to the sport of sailing and developing careers in the maritime industry. The academy has touched the lives of hundreds of young people by providing technical skills as well as developing teamwork and fair play as life skills.

"This is the achievement of our lives. So many years, so many obstacles, yet we kept moving forward.

Thank you to my crew, the Royal Cape Yacht Club Academy, our sponsor Alexforbes and our supporters. When we were down at sea, your support drove us. This one is for you," said Sizatu.

Sizatu said in the future, he hoped to see an all-female crew from the academy doing a race of similar stature, empowering more women in the sport.

Viresh Maharaj, Alexforbes Executive, said the team had made the country proud.

"Sibu and his crew are an example to all of us that with the right support, determination

The RCYC was established in 2012 with the purpose of exposing youth from marginalised communities to the sport of sailing and developing careers in the maritime industry. The academy has touched the lives of hundreds of young people by providing technical skills as well as developing teamwork and fair play as life skills.

and grit, dreams can and do come true. Congratulations to our five heroes – you overcame your personal circumstances and defied society's expectations by going boldly into this race. *Wenze kakuhle.*"

The *Alexforbes ArchAngel* crew have made history in the golden anniversary of the iconic race. Sixteen teams lined up at the start, hailing from South Africa, Brazil, India, Italy and the United States of America, with three boats withdrawing during the challenging event. The overall race was won by *Atalanta*, with *Ray of Light* in second position.

Before leaving for Rio, Sizatu said: "Going to Rio with the academy sailors has been my dream. I have no words to describe how I feel about participating in the race ... it's just an amazing feeling. It broke my heart that we were unable to participate in the last Cape2Rio race, as we had already promised our students. But I always hoped that one day our dream will be fulfilled ... yes, there were times when I thought that this is never going to happen but our team did not give up hope. We trained, persevered and continued preparing even though our path to Rio was not clear. I am amazed by the things that we have achieved just by being present and keeping our heads up despite the challenges faced. Together, with the generous support of Alexforbes, we are about to make history as the RCYC Sailing Academy." 🇿🇦

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The Kasteelspoort (meaning Castle Gorge in Afrikaans) hike is situated on the Atlantic Seaboard side of Table Mountain, offering magnificent views of Camps Bay, Lion's Head, the Twelve Apostles and the rest of the Atlantic Seaboard. The trail is also known for its exhilarating nature, diverse fauna and flora and hidden gems along the way.

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